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Latin America Report

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SEAGA DISCUSSES COAL DEAL WITH BETANCUR IN QUITO

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 15 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Discussions on the supply of Colombian coal to Jamaica, consequent on the decision of the Government to substitute coal for oil as a source of energy over the next few years, were held by Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga and Colombian President, Dr. Bellisario Betancur in Quito, Ecuador on Thursday.

Both Prime Minister Seaga and President Betancur, who had been attending the Latin American Economic Conference, looked at the far-reaching implications of the proposal which involved the possible barter of Colombian coal for Jamaican alumina as part of a major investment programme in which Colombia would give consideration to the establishment of an aluminium smelter utilising its cheap coal resources.

Prime Minister Seaga told President Betancur that if Colombia takes this step Jamaica would be interested in equity investment in the Colombian smelter in return for an equity investment by the Government of Colombia in a Jamaica alumina-producing plant, an official news release said.

Studies Completed

Studies have already been completed in assessing the feasibility of the conversion from oil to coal in Jamaica, both for the domestic sector and the mining sector which together would use enormous supplies. As a result of the discovery of vast beds of coal in easily-accessible areas in Colombia, advanced programmes of development have now made it possible for deliveries of coal to commence as early as next year, President Betancur told Prime Minister Seaga. [as published]

Both leaders decided that in order to continue discussions, Jamaica's Minister of Mining and Energy, the Hon. Hugh Hart, would contact his Colombian counterpart, Sr. Carlos Martinez. These discussions have been scheduled to commence next week to finalise arrangements with a view to having an early decision.

Prime Minister Seaga and President Betancur also discussed ways of commemorating the stay in Jamaica of Simon Bolivar, South American liberator and the father of Colombian independence.

This matter will be dealt with further by the relevant cultural authorities of both Jamaica and Colombia, the news release said.

Mr. Seaga and his party returned home yesterday.

GUARDIAN DISCUSSES OIL SITUATION, URGES GOVERNMENT ACTION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Dec 83 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] Expectations are that the 1984 Budget Speech, due to be delivered in mid-January, will at last deal conclusively with the critical problems of the oil industry. Economists and experts in the petroleum field say that the time has come for the Minister of Finance, in charting a new economic course for the country, to finally set the disordered and beleaguered petroleum sector on a rationalised footing.

In his last Budget Speech, Mr. Chambers himself dealt extensively with the problems which, he explained, required discussions with all the oil companies involved before a comprehensive restructuring could be worked out. And he hinted that whatever may eventually emerge from this exercise, it would all fall under a National Petroleum Company which is yet to be established.

Resources

Mr. Chambers said: "Whatever interim arrangements we may make, and however the discussions on refining operations turn out, it is absolutely clear that the time has come to breathe life into the legislation which we enacted since 1969 to provide for the establishment of a National Petroleum Company, which has as its principal objective promoting the economy of Trinidad and Tobago by undertaking the exploration, exploitation and management of the petroleum resources of the country and by ensuring a more effective participation of the people of Trinidad and Tobago in the development and utilization of these resources."

No attempt has been made since then to fill out this early and hazy profile of the NPC and oil company officials have no idea what their relationship with this organisation will be. Perhaps in his next Budget Speech, Mr. Chambers will fulfil his promise and breathe practical life into the NPC.

But there are several other pressing problems which the Minister of Finance must now finally settle if a sudden and traumatic disruption in the industry is to be avoided.

Among the most critical is the future role of Texaco, particularly the operation of its refinery at Pointe-a-Pierre which had been offered to Government for sale 18 months ago. The refinery has been limping uneconomically along on a throughput of 65,000 barrels a day, the result of an interim arrangement made in the last Budget. Instead of an expected three months, this arrangement has dragged on for the entire year.

A decision has also to be made on the sale of Texaco's extensive real estate holdings including 1,500 acres at Pointe-a-Pierre on which the refinery and all the company's residential areas are sited.

Exhaustive

The Government is also yet to declare crude oil prices for the year on which taxes are to be computed. Because of this delay, oil companies have no idea of the amount of tax they are due to pay on their 1983 production and now find themselves in the embarrassing position of being unable to produce a statement of account for the year now ending.

Exhaustive discussions with the oil companies have been held. The inter-ministerial and Bruce committees have reported. All the relevant data and advice have been given. We now await Mr. Chambers's crystallisation.

CSOP 3298/395

TESORO MOVES TO BOOST GAS COLLECTION AT LOS BAJOS FIELD

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Dec 83 p 7

[Text] Trinidad-Tesoro recently began work on the upgrading of Compressor Station Number 16 located in the Central Los Bajos field.

The project is expected to boost the throughput of gas collected at the station from 154,000 cubic metres a day to 308,000 cubic metres a day.

This will make it the company's largest compressor station for collecting gas from its land operations.

The additional gas from the station is expected to greatly enhance the supply to steam generators which play a vital role in the company's thermal oil recovery programme.

The upgrading includes the installation of an additional scrubber, which assists in cleaning the gas.

This brings to two the number of scrubbers at the station. Three regulators, making a total of six, have also been added. These will handle the increase in the gas flow.

A new suction header gas line about 42 metres long with a diameter of 355 millimetres has also been laid.

Gas lines and suction pipe lines have been modified, their sizes increased and the overall work has produced a ring-like effect at the station. This is expected to prove more effective in enabling the station to operate at maximum capacity.

The four units at the station are each capable of handling 84,000 cubic centimetres of gas a day.

They are expected to operate at close to maximum capacity when the upgrading and modification of the station are completed.

Low pressure gas, collected at the station is piped to the gasoline recovery plant at Santa Flora.

All designs for the upgrading of the station were handling by engineers in the company's projects section who worked closely with personnel from the compressors and oil and gas stations. [as published]

Construction work at the station is being carried out by Ben Construction Company Limited of Claxton Bay.

CSO: 3298/395

ELECTRICITY RATES SET TO INCREASE BY 113-256 PERCENT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Excerpts] Electricity rates and charges will go up from January 1, 1984, but they are less than what the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) asked a tribunal of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to grant it.

In delivering the judgment of the tribunal, Dr. Selwyn Ryan, Chairman of the PUC, said yesterday morning the increases ranged from 113 per cent to 256.2 per cent.

He also called for the amendment of both the PUC and the T&TEC Acts to afford consumers a greater degree of protection particularly with respect to the liability of T&TEC for the damage done to appliances as a result of electrical problems.

Some examples of the impact of the new rates:

Consumers using 288 kilowatt hours (KH) over a two month period now pay \$23. T&TEC asked the PUC to increase this to \$72, but was awarded \$49.

Those using up 820 KH over the same period, will now pay \$129, compared to the \$43 existing rates T&TEC had asked for \$137.

Those using up 2,486 KH now pay \$89, but this has been increased to \$317, T&TEC having asked for \$288.

The minimum bill charge has been increased from \$3 to \$10, the same figure the Commission requested.

The above figures represent increases of 113.0 per cent, 200 per cent, 256.2 per cent and 233.3 per cent, respectively, and are representatives of the following adjustments awarded by the PUC, with what T&TEC asked for in brackets.

Domestic--Rate A

Block 1--300 KH 17 cents (25 cents); Block 301 to 1250 15 cents (12); Over 1250, ten cents (8 cents). Minimum Bill \$10 (\$10).

Fuel Charge

General B: 1 to 500 KH 17 cents (25 cents); 501 to 1,500 KH 13 cents (15 cents); 1,501 to 5,000 KH 10 cents (10 cents); 5,001 to 15,000 KH 9 cents (8 cents); Over 15,000 KH, 5 cents (6 cents); Minimum bill \$20 (\$20).

Mrs Hazel Brown, one of the objectors to the application said after the judgment that "poor people" would suffer the most as a result of the tribunal maintaining the declining block rate system.

But Mr. Leo Martin, T&TEC's General Manager, said the Commission would soon be assessing the financial implications of the award because of the fact it was not what the State-owned utility was expecting.

Reminded that T&TEC requested that the proposed rates be made retroactive to April 1983, Mr. Martin said as this was not done T&TEC would still have to go to Government to make up for the consequential deficit.

(Government has told the Commission it would not be financing it after 1983).

The tribunal recommended a continuous performance monitor at that plant and a performance audit at the Commission.

Telling the court yesterday that an increase in the rates would not necessarily lead to any improvement in T&TEC's performance, Dr. Ryan emphasised:

"We are urging both management and union (representing T&TEC's workers) to re-examine the nature of their relationship to see that it becomes more harmonious and less antagonistic."

He also advised T&TEC to curb its overtime bill as a means of reducing costs.

CSO: 3298/395

UNION, TEXACO IN CONFRONTATION OVER OIL OPERATIONS

Contract Meeting

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] The book value of the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery, owned and operated by Texaco Trinidad Inc., is (US) \$126 million (TT \$302.4).

This was stated by Texaco's General Manager, Mr. Lloyd Austin, in answer to a question by Mr. George Weekes, President-General of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU).

However, according to Mr. Weekes, Mr. Austin could not give the book value of the company's landholdings in Trinidad.

Mr. Weekes questioned Mr. Austin yesterday at the Beaumont Hill Centre, Pointe-a-Pierre, where the union and the company met to open talks aimed at negotiating a revised industrial contract on behalf of the company's hourly and weekly paid workers. The current agreement expires on February 16, 1984.

Texaco submitted counterproposals which the OWTU will study before another meeting is fixed.

After hearing from Mr. Austin who made an opening statement on behalf of the company's team regarding the tax situation, Mr. Weekes told Mr Austin to ask the parent company to offer for sale, the whole of the refinery and operations to the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Running at Loss

The OWTU leader told Mr. Austin, while referring to the company's lost position and being unable to make profits, "to convey to the company's highest authority in the U.S. and also the U.S. State Department the feelings of the OWTU as regards nationalisation of the company."

After listening to Mr. Austin, the OWTU leader said, "Seeing that the refinery was not operating at full capacity and the company is prepared

to sell 75 per cent of the refinery to the government, and further, that the overall operations were running at a loss, it will be to the company's interest to offer, without any charge, the whole operations in this country, to the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago."

Mr. Weekes said to Mr. Austin, "By so doing the company will win the goodwill of Trinidadians and Tobagonians and a number of countries in the Third World. And Texaco would save itself the lost operations internationally."

Mr. Weekes said that by conveying the union's position to the company's highest authority in the U.S., the company will be saving possible confrontation in the future on matters of retrenchment.

"And, too, they will put an end to what I regard as Texaco's strike against the nation, Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago by refusing to import crude for the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery.

"Also by refusing to drill any wells in 1983."

He said naturally, production must decrease in the Texaco field.

'Economic Strike'

The OWTU leader appealed to Texaco to end what he termed "the company's industrial and economic strike against Trinidad and Tobago, and let us have no confrontation with the company."

He said that even when the Government negotiated with Texaco, the Government was negotiating with the U.S. State Department. Mr. Weekes quoted a statement reported to have been made by President Reagan, published on September 9, last, which said "the U.S. will work to protect U.S. investments abroad from treatment which is discriminatory or otherwise inconsistent with international law standards.

"Under international law no U.S. investment should be expropriated unless the taking is done for a public purpose, is accomplished under due process of law, is nondiscriminatory, does not violate previous contractual arrangements, and is accompanied by prompt, adequate and effective compensation."

Mr. Weekes said such a statement made it clear to what the OWTU was talking about when it referred to U.S. policy in dealing with Texaco.

"And we would not like to see any intervention by the U.S. State Department, similar to what took place in Grenada," he declared.

Textrin Statement

Asked for a comment after yesterday's meeting, Textrin's General Manager, Mr. Austin, made the following statement:

"The Company has proposed, as it did by letter of October 20, to the union that because of the uncertainties as to the future of the company and because

of its present economic problems, the present contract be extended for one year, as is, with appropriate back away be either party. We believe this would save a great deal of effort on both sides and make discussions more meaningful when the future becomes more certain.

"We have stated, however, that if after careful consideration the Union still wishes to negotiate a new contract, we are prepared to do so. Because of our present economic circumstances, however, we will still be unable to make a wage offer in the first year and have suggested a wage-reopener at the end of the first year in respect to years two and three. It makes no sense in any organisation to negotiate an increase that results in lay-offs later to pay for it."

Union Charges

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company Limited (Trintoc) is losing hundreds of millions of dollars because of the arrangement made by Government for Trintoc to supply 37,000 barrels of crude oil daily to be refined at Texaco's Pointe-a-Pierre refinery.

This was stated by Mr. Errol McLeod, Vice-President of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, at a news conference held at union's headquarters, Circular Road, San Fernando on Thursday.

Mr. McLeod said "We know, based on information received by people at the top in Trintoc and information received from people who have access to very confidential information from Texaco that it is costing Trintoc some US \$7.00 (TT\$16.00) per barrel to have crude oil processed at Pointe-a-Pierre.

"If Trintoc were to process its own crude at the Trintoc refinery, it would cost Trintoc US \$3 (TT\$7.27) per barrel, so one is talking about this country, not just Trintoc, but all the citizens of this country losing some US \$4.00 (TT\$9.60) per barrel on each barrel of oil sent to Pointe-a-Pierre for primary processing.

"Now if that is not a sell-out of the national patrimony, I don't know what is," he added.

Referring specifically to Texaco Trinidad Inc., Mr. McLeod said apart from the early retirement of 1,000 workers "We saw Texaco closing down the St. Peter's primary school, displacing some 26 teachers."

"Our position on that has been and continues to be that there must absolutely be no relationship between the existence of primary school and the level of throughput in the refinery.

He said there were hints that Texaco was negotiating with a team of local doctors and some insurance companies on the sale of the Augustus Long Hospital.

"Again this certainly is going to affect the kinds of benefits that this union has fought for and won in the interest of Texaco employees. We have been resisting and will continue to resist an idea of the hospital being sold."

"We call on the Government to take over that hospital in the interest of the employees of Texaco in the first place, and the nation generally, and not one red cent must be paid for that hospital," he said.

CSO: 3298/395

HOUSE SPEAKER SAYS TRINIDAD HAS ALTERNATIVES TO CARICOM

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 5 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago has an alternative to Caricom and would be welcomed into the Latin American groupings, according to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Matthew Ramcharan in his book to be published shortly.

Mr. Ramcharan spent three months revising the book at Oxford University during his leave of absence from the House of Representatives. He returned to Trinidad over the Christmas holidays.

Interviewed yesterday, he explained that he was ready to resume his role as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

He said he had applied for and had received three months' leave of absence because he was elected to a research fellowship at Oxford University. He was researching various subjects and had completed one manuscript on his diplomatic experiences, emphasising his study of the Caribbean Community, Trinidad and Tobago's position in Latin America and Canadian commitment and obligations in the Caribbean.

He had done preliminary writings about the subjects while he was a diplomat, he explained. (He served as High Commissioner to Jamaica and Canada and Ambassador to Caracas).

Mr. Ramcharan said he planned using the summer vacation to continue research on other subjects of interest.

Unique Position

The manuscript he had completed, to be published shortly, showed clearly how Trinidad and Tobago's adherence to the Andean Economic group in Latin America was nearly accomplished. That option was still open to Trinidad and Tobago he said.

Mr. Ramcharan explained that in 1968 Trinidad and Tobago did not avail itself of the opportunity to join the Andean economic group but gave preference to Caribbean economic integration.

He referred to sections of the book dealing with Trinidad's opportunities in Latin American integration. He had held discussions as Ambassador to Venezuela and had received approval for the discussions from the late Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams.

According to the book, "Trinidad and Tobago was in a unique position in its foreign relations. It was the only country with naturally special relations with the Commonwealth, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia."

In the book, Mr. Ramcharan also referred to Trinidad and Tobago's plans for joining the OAS and the arrangements for establishment of the mixed commission with Venezuela.

He foresaw a future for Trinidad and Tobago in the Andean subregional group, the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA) and had sought approval of the late Dr. Williams for negotiating entry into it.

He approached Venezuela to make proposals on Trinidad and Tobago's behalf since no outside country could approach the group directly.

"Our representations for adherence to the Andean group were deferred until we were ready to answer the questions asked by the group," he wrote.

However, the door was not permanently closed. The matter would only be re-opened at the expressed desire of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Ramcharan noted that a long time had passed since October 1967 and perhaps someday Trinidad and Tobago would show some inclination to re-open negotiations for entry into a market with a population of over sixty million people.

CSO: 3298/396

BRIEFS

CCL RESOLUTION ON GRENADA--The Caribbean Congress of Labour held its Eighth Triennial Congress in Barbados two weeks ago and one of the topics of discussion was the events in Grenada. After the dust had settled in Solidarity House (home of the Barbados Workers Union), a resolution was adopted that expressed the CCL's "concern" about the military intervention in the Spice Isle and called for immediate withdrawal of all (military) forces from Grenada. Attending the congress as BIU delegates were President Ottiwell Simmons and First Vice President George Baisden. The resolution reads as follows: Whereas the recent atrocities committed by the Revolutionary Military Council of Grenada are repugnant to all freedom-loving people and worthy of the strongest condemnation, and Whereas the establishment of a regime within the Caribbean region espousing a principle of "one man, one gun", is inimical to the unity of the region and against the traditions of government in our area, but Recognising that the principle of the sovereignty of independent nation states is sacrosanct and is so recognised by the United Nations Charter, and Whereas military intervention in the independent nation state of Grenada is repugnant to the principle of sovereignty, and Be It Resolved that this 8th Triennial Congress of the Caribbean Congress of Labour expresses its deep concern about the military intervention, as a first resort in Grenada, before attempting to solve the existing problems by peaceful means and calls for the immediate withdrawal of all such forces from Grenada. And Be It Further Resolved that a Commonwealth Peacekeeping Force and a civilian administration of Grenadians be made to administer the affairs of the Grenadian people, pending the holding of free and fair elections at the earliest possible time. And Be It Further Resolved that this Congress in Session appoint a fact-finding mission to investigate and report expeditiously to a special meeting of the General Council, the facts and wishes of the Grenadian people. [Text] [Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 2 Dec 83 p 1]

NEW CCL OFFICER--Brother Kertist Augustus has been elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour. It was learned last week that the trade unionist from Dominica was voted in at the recent Triennial Congress of the CCL held at Solidarity House, the new home of the Barbados Workers Union in Bridgetown. Augustus, who has visited Bermuda on a number of occasions, is a veteran trade unionist who served as a senator in his native Dominica before accepting the post of Research Officer/Assistant Secretary Treasurer of the CCL two years ago. Following the resignation of

Brother Burns Bonadie earlier this year, Kertist assumed the duties of secretary treasurer until the Congress convened two weeks ago. Augustus is a former president of the Seamen & Waterfront Workers of Dominica where he still holds membership. [Text] [Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 2 Dec 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/396

ATLU ORGAN TAKES ISSUE WITH PLM, STANDARD CHARGES

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 24 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by R. A. Bascus: "ATLU Stand On Its Own Feet"]

[Text]

A paragraph appearing in the Standard newspaper on December 17th, 1983 concerning the sale of the Halcyon Reef Hotel, went somewhat like this "A check has confirmed that workers have not been paid off. The bargaining Union is the A.T.L.U. and that organization being in the firm grasp and control by the ALP Cabinet can do no other than accommodate and facilitate decisions of the ALP regime even if the rights of the workers be abused".

It is obvious that this article was written by a former Cabinet Minister in the ill-fated PLM reign. He is all too aware of the fact that the A.W.U. was a total pawn in the hands of Walter and his colleagues.

The poor AWU officers could never take a stand against the PLM govt. no matter how workers rights were being trampled. After all David Jonas tried it and we all know what happened to him. From my observations since I have been General Secretary of the ATLU, I have notice that the AWU is operating much more independent now since they have shed the weight which you ex-PLM people has on them.

So you see I don't blame the writer for thinking as he does but the facts have proved him wrong. First of all within the last two years the ATLU caused

govt. workers to stage two walkouts on the government. (Remember you tried to make political capital of them) And we have used the same weapon on other Government Departments in order for employees to get their due. As a matter of fact the Cabinet gets very nervous once they understand that the ATLU is involved with workers in any of their Department or quasi departments. Sometimes I believe they would rather deal with another Union. But they realize that we are a responsible set of people who would not unnecessarily upset the applecart.

But getting back to the PLM writer of the article, apparently he is trying to play up to the AWU, but I can tell him now he is wasting his time. Those fellows have their own party and it isn't the PLM. Ask Harry Josiah and Baldwin Spencer who are they 'running' for. Even Selvin seems to have deserted you fellows and gone join up with his brother, in spite of all what he said about him.

The writer went on to state, "The incidence of workers being sent home having to leave behind their severance pay and other benefits becoming far too frequent in Antigua these days. Workers are left to the mercy of new owners with whom they never

worked and by whom they might never be employed". He went on to state some of these places including Halcyon Reef, Arli Garment Factory, S.R. Mendes, WIOC and garment factories. What he has failed to mention is that at the places named the ATLU represented Halcyon Reef (see story on payment to employment elsewhere in this issue) where all employees have been fully paid off by now and would be re-employed in May next year.

WIOC where even the weekly paid employees received severance pay calculated at four weeks per year. The ALP is so dynamic and full of surprises that I wouldn't bet against them having WIOC operational again in the new year then all ex-employees would be re-employed. Freelance Garment Factory is the third one. All employees have been fully compensated less than a year ago and are to be re-employed next month when the factory re-opens under a different name and new management.

I wonder if it is because the writer is so desperately seeking political support from AWU why he is afraid to tell his readers that the places which have left the workers holding the bag are represented by the AWU. They are Arli Gar-

ment Factory and S.R. Mendes. Or is it because the AWU has accused your party of being a middle class party with connections with employers, and that you might have advised them not to pay the poor workers.

Finally just let me remind you that all work places represented by the ATLU which have closed for a short period or longer have fully compensated their employees to the fullest. Don't feel no way! Just direct your article to whom it really concerns and leave the ATLU be. Any information which you may need from us concerning any of our work-places, please feel free to call on us at anytime. After all I believe that you want to keep up the standard of your newspaper.

As long as I am General Secretary of the ATLU it would be in neither the grasp nor control of anyone except the workers of this country, whom I am sure realize what the ATLU now stands for.

I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the ATLU Executive and its officers and on my own behalf to wish our many Comrades well wishers and friends a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

PAMPHLETS ATTACKING DEFENSE FORCE COMMANDER REFUTED

Review of Charges, Past Precedent

St Johns THE WORKING VOICE in English 10 Dec 83 pp 1, 5, 6

[Text]

"It is better to have a lion at the head of an army of sheep, than a sheep at the head of an army of lions".
Defoe.

Within the past two weeks a libellous and seditious publication entitled "Dry Clean" has appeared over the capital with its cowardly authors hiding behind its anonymity. Its main thrust is a pack of defamatory lies and abuses thrown at Major Clyde Walker, the Commander of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force and in an attempt to maintain the old maxim that "Hell hath no wrath like a woman's scorn" proceed to further malign Commanders Hugh Marshall and Lester Bird.

But, alas! This is not the first time that such anonymous papers have appeared on the scene; because it was Major Walker's predecessor, Major Llewellyn Haywood, who bore the same abuse, defamation and lies, in like style.

From all appearances the authors then, like now, appear to be the same. Major Haywood was forced with a situation whereby calls purporting to be taken over by outside forces of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force and there was nothing that he could do. It later turned out that this allegedly was done by a member of the Force.

Then there was the incident of an alleged coup from within which Major Haywood dealt with and many persons got annoyed saying that they did not believe the Major but time has shown that the Major was right. He, like Major, at that time faced the onslaught of underground newsletter telling a series of vicious lies against him.

Among the present officers of the Defence Force they will tell you of the officer who kept saying in the officers' mess: "The military has taken over cause Government a form ass".

This was further borne out by the former Chaplain of the A&B.D.F. when he reported to the Major that the said officer in a discussion wanted to find out if it was not right for the Defence Force to take over the Government, if they felt the Government were not on the course they felt they should take.

Just as Major Haywood took action to break up the group that formed a coup because they were all once fellows well met, so Major Walker took action to move him out of more sensitive regions; hence animosity, which has grown over the years.

What problem there is - if any does not arise in the

permanent force - and if any in the voluntary forces, it might have been due to bad influence which must be dealt with.

From the only Minister of Defence, the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, from his point of view he must be exceedingly pleased by the Memorandum dated 24/11/83 which he has received from the Senior N.C.Os of the Force, denouncing everything that has been said in the "Dry Clean", and a follow up letter dated 26/11/83 from the volunteer section of the A*BD.F., dissociating themselves from the said publication and repledging their loyalty to their country.

At this time one cannot help but continue to be amazed by the "Outlet's" headline in their issue for 25/11/83 - "Rumbling in Bird's Army". The cheapness of their politics is something to be pitied.

Because it is the "Outlet Magazine", Vol. 2 No. 1, July 1970 at pages 18 and 40, in an article entitled "More Money Spent on the soldiers, caption "Preparing For War" had among other things, these to say "Is it that Bird is preparing for a war against the people?"

"Is it that Bird is preparing for a war against the people? Is it that Bird has plans to use force to return him to the seat of Government after the elections (which he has threatened to withhold?)

Bird thought he was cute in getting the barracks. He made it appear at first that the Pan Am base had made a gift to the Government and did succeed in fooling us for a while. And since then, Gardner has been talking about how the barracks were a big help since the tents have been damaged and could not offer proper accommodation for the soldiers.

But, Mr. Premier, don't ever be fooled. Barracks can be blown up, as well as houses on hills (near to or far from hospitals) just as well as houses in the valleys, just as well as stone or concrete structures near to or far from churches. And Mr. Premier the people realize that it is better to kill than to be killed. There is nothing indestructible. Water can be poisoned if there are not enough weapons to go around to kill fast enough so as not to be killed".

Page 40 - HEAVEN OR HELL

".....As we said elsewhere in this publication, Antigua is like a volcano and it is going to blow up. Some of us are going to be blown so high we might stick to the skies or be blown to heaven, others won't stay up, and

they will drop back, maybe into hell. We do not care either way."

NOT AFRAID

"One last thing Mr. Premier, we are not afraid of your police nor your defence force; we are not afraid of you either. The superior arms will make us cautious—please don't mistake it for fear. But with a stout heart and the will to remove the threat of subservient existence hanging over your heads (moreso since it is forced subservience) plus all that we can make, and anything we can get our hands on, we will be victorious. And may the Lord have mercy on those who fall in our path."

(Extracted from the Mar./Apr.
70 issue)

Many people listened to the Hon. Hugh Marshall when he made his contribution in Parliament supporting the Resolution and the actions by our Government in the Grenada situation. "From their own lips or pens they will be judged."

But basically those who have Marxist/Leninist leanings are afraid of any military forces in the country they try to take over, or in that of their so-called enemy. To talk to anyone of a military nature and they hit the sky. All military is bad because it is only they who should use arms.

Everyone in Antigua knows by now the severe pressure the Royal Antigua and Barbuda Police Force in the time of the teachers' strike among others, along with their officers and the Antigua and Barbuda Defence

Force and their officers had and continue to face at the hands of the "Outlet Magazine" and the "Outlet Newspaper".

Saddest of all was General Burke formerly of the U.S.V.I. National Guard, who because of the close association between Antigua and Barbuda and some other islands and the U.S.V.I. National Guards in the field of defence, was severely castigated, and when the Outlet received lying reports from Redcliffe Quay about the said General they had a field day making the poor man's life a misery. Guilt by Association.

Before one deals with the vicious attacks in the scandal sheet called "Dry Clean", one must tell the authors that in the very Outlet of 25th November, 1983

at page 2, it had this to say of Major Clyde Walker:

"Previously when similar leaflets from within the Defence Force were issued against Major Llewellyn Haywood the Bird Administration bowed to the incipient army rebellion, removed Major Haywood replacing him with Major Walker". Outlet confirmed with British sources

"that Major Walker had an 'excellent record' both in the British army and in the metropolitan police force in England".

Further, the authors of "Dry Clean" must know that Major Walker spent six (6) years in active service and six (6) years in the reserves in the United Kingdom Army. That he was the first black police officer to be promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant, after only three (3) years in the Metropolitan Police Force. One year later he was further promoted to Detective Inspector and seconded to Antigua as Officer in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Even "the Lantern" when it was being published, referred to Walker as a Sherlock Holmes and wrote that Major Walker whilst he was in charge of C.I.D. was most efficient and a top crime buster and every case of murder was solved; so much so the Trinidad Guardian reproduced the article.

Major Walker whilst an officer in the Antigua and Barbuda Police Force attended the Police Staff College in England in 1982 and received a report of the highest order.

What is very interesting in both pieces of the "Dry Clean" which have been thrown around town is the careful chronicling of Comrade Marshall's family life. Now, one of the two ex-soldiers who are alleged to have a part in these publications is very closely associated to Comrade Marshall's ex-wife; and as in the publications during Major Haywood's time, Comrade Marshall was made a victim of these poison pen articles. The way it is written is as though someone has a grudge and is trying to get over a point which has just been dragged into a so-called problem in the A&B.D.F.

There are other interesting observations to be made from "Dry Clean" in that this said ex-soldier was dismissed for persistent lateness and insubordination, in that he did not give a damn and that whilst on duty he lived on the telephone.

But there are references to Major Walker when he was a policeman arrested Bird's supporters. This young man apparently was talking about himself, as Major

Walker whilst in charge of C.I.D. (although he did not deal with the matter personally) arrested him for alleged problems with the Camacho's for which he was convicted and sentenced.

Moreover, when Chacko Wacca was charged for wounding Major Walker it was this said person who gave evidence that sustained Chacko Wacca's conviction right up to the Court of Appeal. So it is obvious that Walker could not have been all that bad in his dealings, if he could then turn around and give evidence in his support.

It was also whilst Walker was in charge of C.I.D. that this said ex-soldier was found to have Defence Force equipment in his home. He was charged convicted and sentenced. So to make a statement of the nature that is published in the "Dry Clean" shows that someone has some personal feeling to vent, and they have surely been vented without cause.

Now to deal specifically with some of the matters raised. It must be borne in mind that discipline and

morale of the Defence Force is so high that when volunteers were asked to go to Grenada, the whole Defence Force volunteered.

There is the case of the missing sub-machine gun (SMG). It was reported missing at 11.00 p.m. one night from the guard desk while 3 NCOs were supposed to be on duty. Up to 10.30 a.m. the next morning the SMG could not be found. Up to this time Major Walker was not informed and only Second Lieutenant Walker the Orderly Officer knew. When the Commander was informed by a Sergeant Major what had occurred Lt. Samuel was heard to have told the Sgt. Major, "What the hell you report the matter to Major Walker for?"

ASP Fleulleuteau of the CID was called in and interviewed those concerned on that night. During the investigation, Lt. Samuel produced the SMG stating that a private handed it to him stating that he took it up for his own safety. That the NCOs were there sleeping. He took it and did not wake them to let them know what he was doing and this caused the problems which were investigated.

The private who took up the SMG and the three NCOs who were on duty that night were all charged. The private was fired, the three NCOs were reduced to a lower rank for a period of two weeks.

The so-called person that "Dry Clean" refers to as being harassed is a person known to the police. The CID in their investigation had asked if he was on duty that night. It was not until the "Dry Clean" appeared when he was brought in and charged by Senior NCOs for failing to turn up for duty, that A&B,D.F. officials knew.

The allegation that 36 persons were dismissed during Major Walker's command is fallacious because knowing the Force's compliment there would not have been any men to send to Grenada. Some nine persons have because of age or disciplinary offences. There are some volunteers who have not been coming out from between 6-9 months and their uniforms were needed for those who do come, plus several left for overseas on Green Cards.

There is a soldier who is very slow and during his training Sgt. Major told him "You either buck up or go hug a cow". This is common day military language. The soldier is still in the Force and has turned up for every training and has not been dismissed by anyone.

Both Commissioner Wright George and Major Walker have an excellent working relationship. It is one of these ex-soldiers who was giving a lift to an ex-policeman from the country area, who said that Major Walker must go back to take over the Police Force whilst he would still be in charge of the Defence Force.

Since Major Walker took over the Force he has worked within the financial restraint and have recruited 66 volunteers, 8 of whom are women. He has made certain that what is for his men they get it. Whereas once food would find its way into the homes of civilians or other Defence Force personnel, now he is thought of unkindly by some suppliers who had become fat from this practice.

One of the main reasons for this vicious outburst by "Dry Clean" is due to an officer who at the height of the Grenada operations allegedly went and discussed these most sensitive orders in regard to the Antigua and Barbuda contribution with a civilian. For this an investigation is now being carried out.

At the same time several volunteers were taken on to assist in certain duties as the regulars were out every night. Ways to pay the extra volunteers had to be worked out with the Ministry of Finance, which took a little time to implement; the men have now received some payment. No pages were torn out of any book the NCOs forgot to enter the names of the new men, but the prepared list was there from which they are being paid.

Everyone knows that the Major does not drink or smoke. The house in which he lives was completed whilst he was in the Police Force and not since he has been in Defence Force; the Royal Bank of Canada will attest to this. Apparently these mischief makers may well be mixing up the very large property of Mr. Uriah John, a Barbudan living in St. Croix, now being built next to the Major's property.

These accusers could very easily have found out that \$3000.00 have been collected since the Major took over and fines go to the Treasury having been deducted from salaries. The law as it now stands does not allow more than 25% of the soldier's salary to be deducted for any fine, which means that he gets 75% which the Law says he must get.

After a time a crossed cheque in the name of the Defence Force goes into the Canteen Fund account and have been utilized, for example, recently to purchase 100 pairs of boots from Jamaica, which a cheque with the Antigua Commercial Bank will substantiate.

Major Walker is known for his excellent relationship with the people in his neighbourhood so much so that the allegation of him being indiscreet in his relationship with people in Nut Grove has cause anger among some people in the area who refer to the whole incident as an advantage being taken against the Major's good name.

The one thing that politicians on all sides say of Major Walker is that he is a professional who knows his work and governs himself accordingly and is dedicated to his country's cause.

Those who have been writing the "Dry Clean" have been disruptive elements in the Force and because steps of a disciplinary nature have been taken they cry foul; it is not only Major Walker but also Major Llewellyn Haywood who has had to face up to these uncalled for lies and accusations.

At the time of the unfortunate and still unsolved Maynard murder case, ASP Walker as he then was, was not in charge of CID but was sitting behind a desk doing very little, but at the material time of this incident was in the U.S.A. and had no part to play in it.

The "Dry Clean" refers to "play boys". This is a reference to recently appointed officers in the voluntary which seems to have caused an inferiority complex in at least one officer, causing him to be talking callously.

The biggest joke of "Dry Clean" is, it gives a so called clandestine frequency of 925 kHz being used to communicate between, allegedly, the U.S.A. and Antigua. Most clandestine operations are either in the High Frequency, Very High Frequency or the Ultra High Frequency and not in the Medium Wave especially if it is over five hundred miles. The amount of Power it would take for constant communications through the day would be 50 times ABS, ZDK, Radio Caribbean Light House and even so during the day propagation would still make things difficult. The frequency which is mentioned would come very close to Radio Antilles,

There is one thing in the government service that those in control of vehicles give no credence as to their benefit to the country rather than to themselves. So often a driver at his own carelessness or excessive speed cause an accident, for example knocks a post out of the ground to much cost and loss of man hours by APUA, but APUA does the work of repairs without claiming against those who have caused the situation.

A fine of \$2865 referred to arose as a result of a driver being sent to Crabbs on duty, found his way in All Saints without permission. In attempting to make up time to Crabbs with three other soldiers with him, ran off the road and ended up in a lamp post, severely damaging the vehicle to the extent of being possibly irreparable. The other three soldiers gave evidence of the fast driving of the driver. He was fined the maximum fine of 90 days stoppage of pay which add up to the above mentioned sum, and given also a 28 days CB. This was as a result of being warned and convicted for fast driving previously as well as getting into other serious accidents.

It is said that last week when the matter of the contents of "Dry Clean" came up before the whole Force, someone very close of an officer is said to have broken down and cried and had to leave the meeting. Their comments substantiated all that we know.

In closing, the ridiculous figures attributed to Ministers could only be the brain child of its author who claims he is a revolutionary and would do what he has to do to see his point of view is achieved.

Letter From NCO's

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 10 Dec 83 p 8

[Text]

MEMORANDUM

83.11.24
From: Senior NCO's
Antigua-Barbuda Defence Force
To: Prime Minister, Honourable Mr. Vere C. Bird Senior

Dear Sir,

On Wednesday 23rd November 1983 a seditious circular was found floating around the State of Antigua and have read its contents it has caused great concern among the Senior NCO's of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force.

We are concerned because we are absolutely sure that the allegations la-

belled against the Commanding Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force are all false. Furthermore we are worried because in the circular we see a threat to society. Just imagine that our people is adopting the communist tactics of spreading propaganda to achieve their aim whether it is political or otherwise.

Sir, we want you to bear in mind that the propaganda network is the most effective communist weapon today. It is our opinion that whoever is responsible for the circulation of this article has political ambitions, therefore this move,

as we see it is intended to cause disruption between not only the members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force but between the Army and the Police, consequently causing a destabilization of the government and creating chaos in the State.

Therefore Sir, we the NCO's of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force urge you to take a serious look into the matter and spare no effort to bring the offender to justice. Furthermore, it is our hope that when the offender is caught he will be dealt with so severely that his punishment will be a de-

terrent to other would be offenders.

Sir, it is the consensus of the Senior NCO's of this Force, that because of Lt. Dayton Samuel's behaviour and because of remarks made by him from time to time, he is either directly or indirectly involved with the publication of the circular.

To substantiate the reason for our suspicion Lt. Dayton Samuel when he was Officer in Command of the Volunteer Unit always took a negative attitude towards the Regular Unit. He would always set about to preach dissension among the Regular Unit and Volunteer Unit, and was almost successful in achieving his aim.

To further substantiate the point, one day he arrived

at Crabbs Training Area and announced that there was going to be a take over. One of the Senior NCO's inquired if Mr. Haywood, the then Commander of ABDF sent up the orders, and Lt. Samuel's reply was No! Lt. Samuel then went on to say that Mr. Haywood was old and does things in his own time, and if push come to shove, he Lt. Samuel would shot his old r.....

Furthermore Sir, since Mr. Samuel was relieved of his position as Adjutant attached to the Regulars, the first set of circular were seen in the State. After Major Walker took over Command of the Force things went back to normal. Now, immediately after Mr. Samuel was suspended pending investigation, more circulars start

floating around again.

The circular made reference to a number of soldiers being dismissed without reason. All a pack of lies. There is not one time that a person was unjustly dismissed or found guilty of an offence.

Since Major Walker took Command of this Force, there has been vast improvement in the administration of the Force. Furthermore, the working relation is far better, and the bond of comradeship is much closer than ever before. We the Senior NCO's are convinced that the Commander is doing everything in his power to make the soldiers as comfortable as possible, and we are satisfied with his efforts.

Sir let us close by saying that Mr. Samuel's behaviour as an Officer has left much to be desired.

We are dissatisfied with his Commission. He is yet to convince us that he is worthy of the Commission he carries.

We do hope that after reading this memo, that you will understand and appreciate how we the Senior NCO's feel about such seditious acts of irresponsible people who would set out to destabilize a Nation that is Striving to move on.

Sir, we thank you for taking time off of your busy schedule to read this memo.

Sincerely yours,
Signed: CSM JAMES MC
S/SGT C. DUNNAH
SGT. HOWELL S.
CPL. NICHOLAS D.
SGT. SHIPLEY M.
SGT. JOSEPH DM
S/SGT. MULLIN P.
S/SGT. BROWN E.R.
SGT. SMITH H.

Officer's Response

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 14 Dec 83 p 8

[Text]

Antigua/Barbuda Defence
Force H.
Botanical Gardens
St. John's, Antigua,
26th November, 1983

The Rt. Hon V.C. Bird Sr.
Prime Minister of Antigua
and Barbuda
Prime Minister's Office
St. John's, Antigua

Subject: Confidence in the
Army Administration

Dear Sir,

We the members of the
VOLUNTEER ELEMENT
of the Antigua and Barbuda

Defence Force wish to go
on record as saying we dis-
associate ourselves en-
tirely with an article cap-
tioned "DRY - CLEAN"
which appeared on the
streets of St. John's dur-
ing the morning of Tuesday
22nd November, 1983.

The paper dealt with
what is alleged as being
problems and occurrences
in the Volunteer Element
of the said Antigua and
Barbuda Defence Force.

We wish to categori-
cally deny any truth in that
publication and we are of
the profound opinion that
the ideas expressed in that

publication were created
and published by two (2)
ex - Members of the said
Volunteer Element.

We are unaware of any
such happenings as stated.
We have since made inves-
tigations, which further re-
vealed that no such things
happened nor exist in the
Element.

We further wish to men-
tion that we have seen the
OUTLET NEWSPAPER for
Friday 25th November,
1983 headline "RUMBLING
IN BIRD'S ARMY". We
conclude that, that publica-
tion arose from the DRY-
CLEAN and is part and

parcel of the same people who wish to see this our dear Country to go ruin.

Again, we deny that there aren't any such stated happenings in the Volunteer Element.

We would like to mention here in passing that since the change of command in the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, that is, since Major C.S. Walker assumed the reins we have seen and noted great improvement and a new concept in the Element for all Ranks. We are truly proud of our achievement.

We further wish Sir, to assure you that we the members of the Volunteer Element realize our call and pledge to serve, and we do so with great pride and hope for our Country.

We know too, Sir that our concern for PEACE and STABILITY not only for the Country, but indeed for the Region and the World at large, remains foremost in your minds.

We live and we are guided by the solemn OATH we took and will remain true to that OATH.

Finally Sir, it is our fervent hope that this country will continue to grow from strength to strength, and we will ever be true to our pledge and

oath of office.

The confidence in which you and your Cabinet is held by us remains untarnished. We pray that

God will continue to bless you and all your endeavours as we continue to work hand in hand to build a better place where mankind is free.

We are most respectfully Sir -

CLARENCE M.F. ELMES
W.C. II

Volunteer Element

For, and on behalf of ALL the members of the said Element.

c.c. Major C.S. Walker,
Commander Officer, ABDF

CSO: 3298/386

FURTHER COVERAGE OF FNM CONVENTION SPEECHES, ACTIVITIES

Isaacs on NBC Charges

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

SINCE allegations against the Prime Minister and Minister of Youth Kendal Nottage were made by NBC on September 5, the FNM has been investigating the charges to find out what it can.

In his address closing the FNM's three-day convention Friday night Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs said that some of what they have discovered is "hair-raising."

Describing the NBC report as a most "shattering event," Mr Isaacs said that the news was followed by a "great deal of hysteria" on the part of Government members who "stumped over New Providence accusing the United States, The Tribune and the FNM of a conspiracy against the government."

"All nonsense, of course," Mr Isaacs said. "The FNM had nothing to do with it and I do not believe that The Tribune had anything to do with it either. I will say this, though, since then we have tried to find out all we can about this matter and some of what we have heard is hair raising. I trust that it will come out before the Royal Commission and that this

matter will, before too long, be put behind us," Mr Isaacs said.

Mr Isaacs also reaffirmed his party's position on the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada.

"The FNM welcomed the intervention by the United States and the Eastern Caribbean States in the Grenada affair which delivered the Grenadian people from a band of cutthroat Marxists," Mr Isaacs said.

Mentioning the increasingly high unemployment rate, now running at an estimated 25%, Mr Isaacs also said that many young and not so young Bahamian lives are being destroyed and wasted in idleness and despair. He said that crime and drug abuse are more rampant than ever.

Mr Isaacs also condemned an "uncaring and incompetent" government for failing to bring about the expansion of the economy that all Bahamians can survive and prosper.

Mr Isaacs pointed out that at one time the second city of Freeport was booming and there alone was enough economic activity to provide jobs for many Bahamians from the family islands and Nassau.

"If Freeport had been allowed to develop in an orderly manner, the young men and women who now crowd the blocks and ghettos of New Providence would have been able to take advantage of these opportunities to create prosperity for themselves and to build new stable and secure families," Mr Isaacs said.

Turnquest Appeal for Funds

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Dec 83 pp 4, 14

[Excerpts]

MR ORVILLE Turnquest vowed at the Free National Movement's convention Thursday night that the party was pledged to rid the Bahamas of the evil of victimization and to ensure that under an FNM government everyone will truly be free to support the party of their choice.

He also called on supporters to make regular contributions to party funds as a personal commitment to change the government in order to finance the party's programmes for winning the next elections.

He said the party had to pay back the borrowed \$27,000, which the Bahamas Broadcasting Corp had demanded a week in advance to ensure coverage of the three-day (three hours nightly) convention. The party, he said, was also in the

advanced stage of negotiations to secure a suitable site at the junction of East Street and the East-West Highway for a permanent national party headquarters.

Following is the complete text of Mr Turnquest's address, which he was not able to deliver in full on the opening night of the party's convention because other speakers had run over the 11 pm cut off time for ZNS.

Tonight the stage has been set. We have heard a dynamic address from our Party Chairman, Mr Cecil Wallace Whitfield, assuring the country at large and the outside world around us that this party is now charted on a direct course towards becoming the next government of this country - and a better government of this country - at the next general elections, whenever that may be.

Tonight we have begun an intense three days convention

exercise in which we will not be concerned with the politics of criticism; we will not be concerned with mud-slinging and personal invective, we leave that to people with dirty doggish ways.

We will not even be overly concerned with reminding the nation of the almost total breakdown of any moral authority or inspired capacity, on the part of the PLP, to justify them continuing to govern. They are now too consumed with hateful prejudice, with spiteful victimization, and partisan patronage, to think of the Bahamas as a whole. They have announced their intention to sectionalize the country down party lines and to govern, promote and foster prosperity for only their proven party supporters.

And so tonight we are here primarily to chart our blue-print for an FNM Government to benefit all the people of this land. The PLP is a finished party. We have dismissed them as a diminishing force without any future, and in this convention we do not plan to waste our time and our energy, yes and our money, which we have been forced to pay, on cataloging the public sins and misdeeds of the PLP government and its leaders. But rather we will be presenting to the country, in emphasizing the politics of change, our blue-print for restoring to everyone in this country a full measure of opportunity, hope, progress, development, friendliness, peace and prosperity.

We are all here tonight because you and I believe that the Free National Movement is the only salvation for securing our beloved homeland from the wrack and ruin in which the PLP has placed us. I join with my colleagues in welcoming all who are here tonight. Some of

you risk the scourge of victimization should your PLP bosses learn that you have dared to come. We know that there are many other thousands who would wish to be here, but do not dare to be here because of economic reprisals from those who presently run this land and practise domination with threats and vengeful acts.

Before God, we in the Free National Movement swear to rid this country of that evil and to make this nation a land where everyone will truly be free to support the party of their choice without fear or favour of the life they live or the job they hold.

We are the Free National Movement in convention.

We are the FNM.

We are the party which does not spurn the poor or the middle class or the rich.

We embrace them all, including the so-called grass roots.

Although we presently claim only a third of the seats in Parliament, today our support exceeds 50% of the people of this country and, God willing, the next general election will witness the rising tide of that storm led by the youth of this nation who will put in place a government of this Free National Movement to hasten the difficult but noble and challenging task of the reconstruction of our beautiful country which the PLP continues to devastate with its destructive divisive dealing.

Even the PLP now realize and accept that this country offers but one alternative for beneficial and progressive change. Even they have now stopped their foolish propaganda of still calling us UBP, Free PLP, BDB or FNDM.

There is but one alternative to the PLP and we are the Free National Movement. Our

purpose is to change the reins of government from the PLP, and it is still time for that change.

As part of this government's power craze in their quest to hold on to the reins of government, they have embarked on a policy which no longer allows the medium of radio and television to cover political meetings and rallies, or other functions held by, or involving, the official Opposition Party of this country. It is only during the Budget debate in the House in December of each year, or when we find the financial means to pre-pay the exorbitant costs required from us for national coverage in convention, that we are able to reach the national Bahamian audience through the broadcast and TV facilities of station ZNS.

ZNS has become a disgraceful, partisan, political propaganda organ for the PLP. And even PLP's are ashamed of their policy.

We are embarked on a programme which requires over the next two or three years a considerable amount of money. We constantly require funds for party administration expenses, in staffing and maintaining our headquarters, travelling tours to the Family Islands, publishing radio announcements, printing political information and pamphlets for distribution, and holding public rallies.

Only last week the party has resumed the publication of "The Torch" as our official party paper, and the considerable cost of this will have to be subsidized from party funds.

We have already begun our preparations for the next general elections with a programme

which is designed to ensure accurate, efficient and successful coordination, and which will also overcome attempts at illegal registration and voting abuses. Transportation arrangements, both for campaign and for election day mobilisation also must now be organized.

The finance committee of our party is now in an advanced stage of negotiations for securing a suitable site on which our own permanent National Party Headquarters will be constructed, with ample adjoining grounds to be developed as a site for rallies, fund raising functions and for parking. The site in question is located at the junction of East Street and the East-West Highway, and it is hoped that completed plans of this entire project will be put before the Council of the party for their consideration and approval in the early days after this convention. Hopefully, this project will be an existing fact by the time we meet again in convention.

Needless to say, all of these necessary steps require a commitment for regular and substantial financial support. I need to report at this time that your party's Parliamentarians, both MP's and Senators, have led the way in this commitment. Recently we were very vocal in Parliament in opposing the government's proposals for increased Parliamentary salaries, which were nonetheless passed and made retroactive to the beginning of this year.

In Parliament we were challenged to demonstrate our objections by refusing the increases. Instead, we have each imposed a voluntary taxation on ourselves by contributing to party funds a substantial part of such increases. In this way we have sought to return, for the benefit of our party as a whole, the monies derived from the tax payers of this country for our Parliamentary duties.

In addition, it must be stated that the cost of necessary contributions to party expenses, constituency operations, and charitable needs, more than exhausts the salaries even now paid to the majority of your party's Parliamentary members.

We do not have at our disposal the facilities of government institutions to assist us in carrying out our political duties. The party's fund-raising, for all that must be done, is derived entirely from our Parliamentarians, from voluntary donations, and fund-raising efforts.

In planning for victory in the next elections, I am tonight making an appeal for every single supporter of our party, throughout our Bahama Islands, to make the personal commitment tonight for a monthly contribution to party funds. Some would be able to afford only \$5 a month, others \$10, some \$20, others \$50, and some \$100. But whatever your personal finances allow you to afford, it now becomes your duty to make that commitment as your contribution to a change of government, by a regular monthly payment into the treasury of this party in order to finance our work and our programme for winning the next elections.

Those who might wish to make a contribution tonight, or tomorrow night, here in this hall or by sending the same by post, may do so by personal delivery to me or to Mr Tennyson Wells, the Chairman of our Finance Committee, or by mailing the same made payable either to the Free National Movement, or to myself, or to Mr Wells, c/o P O Box N-8181, Nassau, Bahamas.

I make this appeal tonight in the interest of strengthening our party's effectiveness to wrest control of the government of this country, and thereby provide a better way, a better life, a better country.

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Dec 83 p 10

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

FORMER Tourism Minister Arthur Foulkes declared Friday night that the Bahamas would have passed the two million tourist figure in 1978 and would be welcoming over two and a half million visitors by now had the Government sustained only a modest five per cent annual average increase from 1969.

In his address on the last night of the three-day convention of the official opposition Free National Movement, Mr Foulkes said that unemployment has grown to very dangerous proportions and is a serious threat to the peace and stability of the nation.

The Blue Hills MP, who served as Minister of Tourism in the PLP Government in the late 1960s, also said that the country is being dangerously divided by discrimination and victimization and that justice and fairplay are being exiled from the Bahamas.

In his few words on tourism before turning to other matters, Mr Foulkes noted that the country this year at last passed the two million mark in tourist arrivals and stressed that the FNM supports the Government and the Ministry of Tourism in promoting and developing the industry.

"The PLP Government over the years has been rather ambivalent in its attitude towards tourism," he told the crowd of cheering supporters attending the convention in La Chandelle Ballroom of the Government-owned Balmoral Beach Hotel.

"As a result," declared Mr Foulkes, "much valuable time and opportunities were lost while they flirted with the idea of shifting the whole base of our economy."

The former Cabinet Minister said that in 1969, the Bahamas recorded 1.3 million arrivals, an unprecedented and unequalled increase of nearly 25 per cent in a single year.

"A number of factors contributed to this but I will not go into this except to say that in that golden year we had a certain Minister whose name I am too modest to mention," he said. (Mr Foulkes was the Minister of Tourism at that time).

Mr Foulkes said that from 1970 onwards, things started to fall apart in the country and tourism did not escape the damage. He said the Government blamed world conditions, including recessions in the United States for the lack of steady growth.

"The truth is that the Government failed to make hay while the sun was shining and discouraged the capital investment which we needed to expand our tourist facilities in Nassau, Lucaya and the Family Islands," said Mr Foulkes.

"If the Government had been able to sustain only a modest five per cent per year average increase from 1969, we would have passed the two million mark in 1978 and by now would have been welcoming over two and a half million visitors," he added.

Mr Foulkes said that he hopes that the "pro-tourism forces" now have the upper hand in this "schizophrenic Government" so that headway can be made in developing the full potential of tourism for the Bahamas.

The MP accused Government of making a long succession of glorious promises, including the Square Deal, which were torn

into shreds and consumed in a blaze of betrayal.

He said that the PLP promised electricity for all the islands, many of which still grope in darkness; instant development of agriculture; relief from unconscionable taxation that turned out to be a cruel hoax; golden opportunities for the new generation of Bahamians, the same ones sitting on the blocks; full employment; and an educational system adequate to the needs of the new Bahamian.

Mr Foulkes said that he sees in the New Frontier fathers in the depths of despair, stripped of their dignity because they cannot find work to provide for their families.

"The humiliating, dissipating scourge of unemployment is worse now than it has ever been in the history of the Bahamas," Mr Foulkes said.

As if the agony of jobless mothers and fathers was not enough, Mr Foulkes said, there is the special tragedy of thousands of young people who look to their parents, representatives, friends and anybody to tell them where they can find a job.

"These young people are unable to begin their lives as adult citizens," Mr Foulkes said. "They cannot make their contributions and reap their rewards from our society simply because the promise of full employment is nothing but a figment of PLP imagination."

"Make no mistake about it," Mr Foulkes declared. "Unemployment has grown to very dangerous proportions and is a serious threat to the peace and stability of our society."

"It feeds the fires of crime and other anti-social behaviour and tends to make a country ripe for revolutionary harvesters," he said.

Mr Foulkes said that he also sees on the New Frontier, young men and women burning out their minds and destroying their bodies with dope - another one of the evils which is seriously undermining the Bahamian society and taking its daily toll of immeasurable suffering and waste of precious humanity.

"Not just young people are caught up in the vicious vortex of drug abuse but also previously successful Bahamians are being reduced to poverty and dereliction because of it," Mr Foulkes said.

He said that he sees in the New Frontier a nation being dangerously divided by discrimination and victimization "at the hands of the high and mighty."

"Even young people attempting to enter the mainstream of our economic life are brutally shocked into the realization that justice and fairplay are being exiled from this so-called Commonwealth," he said.

Mr Foulkes added: "The result will be that our society will breed a generation of cynics who will have little or no respect for the traditional values which held our society together."

Party Elections

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 6 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

FREE National Movement leader Kendal G L Isaacs, "in a show of unity at nomination time on Thursday" at the FNM convention, was returned unopposed after being nominated by Chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield. Mr Whitfield, who was nominated for the chairmanship of the party by Mr Isaacs, was also returned unopposed.

The FNM "broadened the base of its hierarchy" by increasing its number of administrative officers. The numbers of assistant vice chairmen, assistant secretaries, general and assistant treasurers were all increased from three to five as the party prepared to strengthen its organization throughout the country on a regional basis.

Orville A Turnquest, Treasurer, was unopposed as was L Garth Wright, Secretary General. Mr Wright was also elected as one of the party's vice chairmen. Yelverton Cox, the FNM's candidate in Salem in the last election, was elected Chaplain.

Others elected were, in order of seniority: Vice Chairmen:

Charles Virgill, Arlington Butler, Tennyson Wells, Edwin "Viki" Brown and Rudyard Penn.

Assistant Treasurers: Edmund Knowles, Desmond Edwards, Curtis Cartwright, Yvette Bethel and Erwin Kemp.

Assistant Secretaries General: Alvy Penn, Eris Moncur, Melvin Grant, Anthony "Boozie" Rolle and Kenneth Christie.

Trustees: Nesbitt Higgins, David Bullard, Warren Levarity, Sidney Collie and E K Minnis.

Assistant Chaplains: Ronald Bevens, Paul Moss, Erwin Duncombe and Rosie Grant. Senator Merlene Hanna, who had served as Chaplain previously, was by unanimous resolution honoured with the title of Chaplain Emeritus.

Smith on PLP Abuses

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Dec 83 pp 1B, 2B

[Article by Colin Higgins: "'PLP Have Abdicated Their Responsibility to Nation'--Smith"]

[Text] Those entrusted with the constitutional responsibility for the peace, security and welfare of every citizen in the Bahamas have, through words, deeds and action, abdicated that responsibility, Free National Movement MP for Marco City, Grand Bahama, Cornelius A. Smith said Friday at his party's annual convention.

Speaking at the Balmoral Beach Hotel before an enthusiastic audience, Mr Smith said: "Government by definition is national both in scope and authority and the constitutional head of this Government is the Prime Minister.

"As such he has a constitutional responsibility for the peace, security and welfare of every citizen be he PLP, FNM, upper class, middle class, or grass root, but those who are temporarily entrusted with this responsibility have, through words, deeds and action abdicated that responsibility."

The Marco City MP continued: "They have sworn to abandon the middle class, civil servants and to deal with Freeport, to change the complexion of Bay Street, to discriminate against FNMs and to withhold from the FNMs both economic and job opportunities.

"We condemn the Prime Minister," said the speaker, "on this un-Christian, non-Bahamian...attitude."

Every Bahamian has an equal right to, and must be given equal opportunity to all that this country has to offer, Mr Smith maintained. "The full resources of this country must be used to further the interest of every Bahamian. Not just a selected few.

"The attitude of the Government that PLPs have a greater claim than FNMs to this land belongs to the garbage heap," continued the speaker. "This land is ours too. For me, for you and yes for PLPs too and nobody but nobody is gon' take away our land from us. No! not even a music man," Mr Smith declared. The term "Music Man" was used by FNM party chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield in his speech at the opening of the convention, and picked up by subsequent speakers to refer to Prime Minister Pindling.

"Far too long now we have sat idly by and watched while our jobs, our freedoms, our opportunities, our rights, were being taken away from us by the Music Man. In August it was Leonard Archer 'in the public interest.' In November it was Judy Mae Lewis by naked abuse of power. Who will it be tomorrow?" he asked. "Will it be you?"

Mr Smith said that during the FNM's short term as opposition they have provided "every opportunity" for the PLP to "show that they really care for

their fellow Bahamians, but, led by the Music Man, they have demonstrated that they are a spiteful and uncaring group."

The speaker continued: "We have proposed that the basic necessities of lights, roads, drains, telephones, parks, playgrounds be erected and maintained in those neglected areas of New Providence, but the Music Man said no!

"We have proposed that roads be built and or repaired in Eleuthera, in Cat Island, in Long Island, in Inagua, in Exuma, in Andros, in Grand Bahama and in all the islands of the Commonwealth, but the Music Man said no!"

"We proposed that district registries be established in Grand Bahama, Inagua, Abaco, Eleuthera and other family islands so that persons requiring passports, birth certificates, marriage certificates or police certificates will be able to get them at the registry in their district rather than be burdened with all the expense to travel to Nassau, but the Music Man said no!"

The audience began to assist Mr Smith by shouting out 'no!' at the end of each sentence as he continued to tell of propositions made by the opposition which met with 'no' from the 'Music Man.'

He spoke of local government for Grand Bahama and other major islands; improved working conditions and overtime compensation for Police officers; use of proposed Parliamentary salary increases for improvement of school buildings, clinics, roads, and family island docks; old age pension increases from \$100 to \$200; payment of a small interest on all consumer deposits held at BATELCO and the Water Corporation; construction of a modern regional hospital in Grand Bahama and Bimini; construction of a technical and vocational school in Grand Bahama; increased child support from \$15 a week to "a more realistic figure"; and the non-increase of taxes on car licences and drivers' licences "until and unless" roads are repaired.

Mr Smith also spoke about drugs. "No one can deny that the illegal use of dangerous drugs, including marijuana and cocaine, have reached epidemic stage among Bahamians.

"These drugs know no boundaries. It is available and used at all levels of society. In fact the biggest news story of the eighties for the Bahamas has been the allegations by NBC that certain high ranking members of our Government has been or might be involved in this dehumanizing, destabilizing, degrading, immoral, illicit and illegal trade.

"It is serious enough that an outside agency should make this allegation but it is even more serious when these allegations have been an open 'sip sip' from Inagua in the south to Bimini in the north by our Bahamians for the last five or more years."

The speaker called for the establishment of rehabilitation centres "where our less fortunate brothers and sisters can turn for help" and for the development of a society where self-worth, pride and personal integrity abound and where "we get high on productivity and not on drugs."

PARLIAMENT DEBATES BUDGET AMID CRITICISM FROM FNM

Hanna's Opening Remarks

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Dec 83 p 5

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

FINANCE Minister Arthur Hanna opened the debate in the House of Assembly this morning on Government's \$383.1 million budget for 1984, declaring education, health, tourism and the police force as the four main ministries to receive most attention next year with the likelihood of further increases in expenditure.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that the impact of projects completed this year, including the \$100 million Cable Beach Hotel and Casino, will be strongly felt in 1984 and that the Cable Beach complex has provided an impetus to the economy that "all is well for the future."

Declaring the greatest confidence in the Minister of Tourism and his professional aggressive staff, Mr Hanna said that in his budget he took into account tourism as the prime industry to be relied upon for many years and to maintain its competitive edge and forward push that characterised 1983.

In moving for the second reading of the three bills which make up the 1984 budget, Mr Hanna said that from the estimates, it appears that there is a projected expenditure of \$344.1 million on the recurrent

account and over \$39 million on the capital account.

Mr Hanna said he also estimated revenue at \$350 million and that if all goes well, there will be a surplus of \$6.7 million which he proposes to contribute to capital development. The remainder of the capital development funds will be obtained by borrowing.

Mr Hanna said he wanted to clear up some misconception that currently exists as to why money is borrowed for capital development works saying that it would be foolish for a government to try to do capital works out of its revenue as it would cause an undue burden on the people.

If that were to happen here, Mr Hanna said the Bahamas would be the only "fool country in the world" because no other country would attempt to do that.

Yet, he said, capital works must be carried out for the development of infrastructure, roads, water and sewerage, among other works.

He said that the present expenditure shows the servicing of the public debt for 1984 would have increased by 11 per cent or \$65.5 million for next year, which was not unreason-

able.

Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs corrected Mr Hanna pointing out that the draft estimates show that the public debt servicing figure will be \$68 million. Mr Hanna agreed and apologised for the mistake.

Mr Hanna said the country is still well below the reasonable capacity for borrowing and can amply afford to repay its debts. He said that the country has never defaulted on its debt repayments and has an "unblemished record in that regard."

Noting that education leads the four main ministries to receive the most attention next year with \$61.7 million, Mr Hanna said that health followed with \$46.4 million, tourism with \$25 million and the police with \$23.2 million.

"In most cases there are likely to be increased expenditure," Mr Hanna told the House.

The Finance Minister said he had some difficulties in 1983 regarding revenues and had projected by the end of this year that the country would not reach the \$327 million estimated a year earlier but will reach the figure of \$307 million.

He said that the country will

also spend \$332 million by the end of the year instead of the projected \$325 million.

He said that there was also a shortfall in revenue from certain specific areas, including the oil facility at Grand Bahama, casino taxes because one casino closed this year, and taxes on real property.

"But the basic indicator, Customs revenues, has been up and exceeded our original projections," Mr Hanna said. "All in all, I am pleased with the performance of '83 despite problems in the world. We look forward to an optimistic 1984."

Mr Hanna said that the impact of projects completed this year will be felt next year, especially the \$100 Cable Beach Hotel and Casino, the impact of which will be felt strongly in 1984 and will provide an impetus to the economy that all is well for the future.

"In my budget, I have taken into account tourism as the prime industry to be relied on for many years to come and to maintain our competitive edge and forward thrust that characterised 1983," the Finance Minister told parliament.

He said that the ministry of tourism has been provided \$25 million and if it becomes necessary to maintain the industry as number one in the area, he will commit further funds "so we remain number one."

"I have all the greatest confidence in the Minister of Tourism and his professional, aggressive staff," declared Mr Hanna. He hoped they would spend the funds provided wisely in a most effective way in the

best interest of all.

He said that the government has made efforts to further expand the educational system and a World Bank project is on stream and progressing well.

He said that funds for additional classrooms, schools in New Providence and the Family Islands, plus accommodation for teachers were also provided.

He said that steps have also been taken to diversify the economy and that no people should rely 100 per cent on a one-crop economy no matter how stable that economy has been.

He said that ground breaking has already taken place for the Free Trade Zone in New Providence, which is expected to be well on stream in 1984.

Mr Hanna also said that funds have been provided to develop the infrastructure in subdivisions and the Free Trade Zone, where he hopes industries will be started by 1984.

He said that such a project will provide a means of employment and that Bahamians will acquire skills in technology.

Mr Hanna said he hopes to attract more development capital which is necessary if the Bahamas is to achieve a growth rate necessary to keep pace with the growing demands.

According to Mr Hanna, much effort will be put into housing Bahamians in 1984 and great strides in this direction have already been made by the Government.

"Today we have made great strides in the development of housing for our people," Mr

Hanna declared, adding that government's ambition is to ensure that all Bahamians are properly housed.

He said government has taken a two-fold approach in the development of housing - construction of new homes for Bahamians and rehabilitation of homes.

He said that many Bahamians are living in dilapidated areas, in rental houses in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the Family Islands and that the government hopes to accelerate public rental housing in 1984.

"The idea of the redevelopment of the community is to ensure that we don't abandon any area but rebuild them. That is the focal point of our housing policy," said Mr Hanna.

He said Government hopes to build 60 such units in 1984 and that one of the responsibilities of the government is to ensure that nobody in the Bahamas suffers.

Noting that after government came to power it injected more funds to social services, including the establishment of National Insurance and an increase in old age pensions.

Mr Hanna said he was proud to announce that during 1984, "we will accelerate our social services programme."

On the tax issue, Mr Hanna said Government decided for a number of reasons that it did not wish to introduce income tax in the Bahamas as it would be "cutting off our hands to suit our faces."

He said that until a more fair form of taxation is found, the ones that are found must be progressive.

Devaluation Denial

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell: "Grimes, MP, Denies Bahamian \$ Is To Be Devalued"]

[Text]

VALENTINE Grimes, PLP representative for Fort Charlotte during the Budget Debate in the House of Assembly yesterday strongly denied rumours that the Government and the Central Bank intended to devalue the Bahamian dollar.

Mr Grimes said that such a move would not benefit the Bahamian economy in any way. He said that only yesterday a senior bank official questioned him about the rumour.

However Mr Grimes quickly pointed out that the Bahamian dollar stands at \$1.42 to the British pound. He also told House members that more than 80% of Bahamian trade is done with the United States.

"This rumour is absolutely untrue and if this was done it would not benefit the country or the people. The people who have started this rumour should not betray the trust bestowed on them by the Bahamian people by spreading such baseless rumours," Mr Grimes said.

Mr Grimes said that he is convinced that "satisfactory economic growth" exists in the Bahamas, and that the economy is as "buoyant" today as it ever was.

Mr Grimes, during his speech, also said that the number of banks and trust companies registering in the Bahamas has increased from 169, in 1976 to 250 in 1983. He also said that the loans advanced to the private and public sector by commercial banks has increased from \$320 million in the 1970's to \$584 million in 1983. Mr Grimes pointed out that this is an 83% increase.

Lashing out at the Opposition Free National Movement, Mr Grimes said that the PLP and FNM have different "philosophical ideas" about the economic development of the company.

Mr Grimes claimed that the FNM supports the view that Government should not be involved in the part of the economy dealing with public corporations like BEC, Batelco and the Water and Sewerage Corporation.

Mr Grimes said it was his view that the Opposition felt that this part of the economy should be sold to foreigners. This statement drew loud criticism from members of the opposition, who denied that this was their view.

Mr Grimes said that government's view about the economy is that it should be "mixed" with both the private and public sector becoming involved in its development.

Touching on the National Debt, Mr Grime said that he feels it is "good business sense" to borrow money for capital development. He said that it is also possible that more money should be borrowed by government for infrastructural development in the Family Islands.

Also during his speech Mr Grimes condemned statements made by FNM party chairman Cecil Wallace-Whitfield at his party's convention. According to Mr Grimes, Mr Whitfield called for "social disobedience." Mr Whitfield rose on a point of order and requested that Mr Grimes not misquote him.

Mr Grimes then began to deal with events leading to the violence of the 1972 elections. The Opposition quickly pointed out that this was not relevant to the Budget debate. House Speaker Sir Clifford Darling told Mr Grimes that if he continued with his statements it was likely that he might be opening a "pandoras box."

Capital Development Failures

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

THE HOPES of many Bahamians have been dashed because millions of dollars, allocated for capital development in Budget Communications in the past three years, have not been spent, Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs revealed in the House of Assembly yesterday.

According to Mr Isaacs, Shadow Minister for the Ministry of Finance, in 1981 the approved capital development expenditure estimates in the budget was \$65 million. However Mr Isaacs said that the actual expenditure was \$37.9 million, leaving a shortfall of money not spent in excess of \$27 million.

In 1982, Mr Isaacs said that estimated expenditure was placed at \$65 million, however the actual expenditure was \$37.3 million. Again there was a shortfall of more than \$27 million not spent for capital development.

And again in 1983, Mr Isaacs pointed out that the money allocated for capital development was \$57.2 million. The actual expenditure, he said, was \$34.2 million, leaving a shortfall of \$23 million.

Therefore over the past three years there has been a total of \$79.1 million dollars not used by government for what it was supposed to have been used for.

"The state of affairs over the past three years, has been such," Mr Isaacs said, "to frustrate the Bahamian people. I think their hopes have been dashed because they were expecting certain capital development and this has not been done."

Mr Isaacs also pointed out that there was also a shortfall of not less than \$9 million in the country's estimated revenue between 1982-83. Mr Isaacs said that there was some discrepancy between the government's estimates and the annual report made by the Central Bank of the Bahamas.

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Dec 83 pp 1, 5

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] FREE National Movement national chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield declared last night that if Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna's call for unity is "genuine," the official opposition will not take to marching in the streets and a programme of civil disobedience.

But, the Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama MP said, tell that to Judy Mae Lewis and Autrey Bullard, whom the FNM claim have been victimized by the government, and they will ask how can one trust a government which victimizes and discriminates against Bahamians.

Mr Whitfield also called upon government to repeal the Immoveable Property Act which went into force on November 9, 1983, and to sit down and discuss areas of concern and find solutions with the Opposition before it loses power in the "near future."

The FNM chairman issued the warning of possible street marches and civil disobedience at the party's recent convention, the first since the 1982 general elections.

Mr Whitfield, the last member of the House of Assembly to speak on the \$383.1 million 1984 budget, repeated his statement at the convention to members and recalled that he issued a similar call while he was the chairman of the PLP when it was in opposition.

He said that the call for civil disobedience then was seen as a legitimate tool as a protest against discrimination by the then United Bahamian Party Government.

Mr Whitfield asked why the Deputy Prime Minister, Fort Charlotte MP Valentine Grimes and West End MP Moses Hall, who have condemned the call,

object to the opposition using that legitimate tool today.

He said that victimization and discrimination is no less wicked when it is practised by a black government against a black opposition.

"The Prime Minister derives all of his authority from the people, who have conferred no authority on the Prime Minister to victimize, discriminate against and oppress the Bahamian people," Mr Whitfield said.

He said he also shares the concerns of Salem MP and former trade unionist David Knowles about the impact the Commission of Inquiry will have on the economy next year and for the next few years.

Mr Whitfield said that the Deputy Prime Minister, unlike the Prime Minister, has called for unity in "our approach to certain national problems and offers and holds out equal opportunity to Bahamians.

"If he is genuine, the Free National Movement will support it and will not take to marching in the streets and to a programme of civil disobedience," Mr Whitfield declared.

He said that the Minister of Finance had indicated that earnings from tourism had decreased and that 1983 still saw fewer air stopover visitors than 1980, which means that many rooms will be vacant.

He then asked Mr Hanna to provide him with details of the new hotels to be built, and called the announcement a "pie in the sky." He said that he believes the Minister was misinformed and was misleading the Bahamian people.

He said that unlike ostriches, the 43 House members cannot bury their heads in the sand and noted that there is a crisis in confidence in the nation's institutions and parliament where they have failed to perform on behalf of the Bahamian people.

He accused the government of being just talk and rhetoric

but having no solutions.

He queried why Finance Minister Hanna gave statistics on foreign countries and none about the Bahamas, although a Department of Statistics is provided for in the nation's budget.

He said that the Minister mentioned nothing about the rate of unemployment and asked whether that was so because the rate is so high that it would contradict everything which he says in the budget.

Next year, Mr Whitfield said, he expects the Minister of Finance to give the nation the facts and figures on unemployment.

Commenting on the Immoveable Property Act, Mr Whitfield asked how many investors will come to be asked hundreds of questions or face lengthy delays in having their applications processed properly.

He said the Act should be repealed before it creates more poverty in the Bahamas.

He asked members to just think of the difficulties experienced by MPs in dealing with government ministries and then try and imagine the frustrations others might experience.

Mr Whitfield also said that he would like to see an end to discrimination and a rally to the call of unity by members of parliament.

He asked the government to consider the implementation of local government in the islands to be of benefit to the people in the islands in which they live.

He further suggested that a brewery be built in Grand Bahama and noted that government's announcement a year ago of plans to build a brewery in Andros is still a promise.

"I call on the government, before they lose power, which I see is in the immediate future, to sit down now and discuss areas of concern and come up with solutions for the national problems which confront us," Mr Whitfield said.

Foulkes on Foreign Investment

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Dec 83 pp 1, 10

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text] Arthur Foulkes, FNM member for Blue Hills yesterday in the House of Assembly repeated the FNM's policy advocating foreign investment, but stressed the investors would not be types like Joe Leher, Robert Vesco or Fidel Castro, who the PLP government have allowed in the country.

"What the FNM advocates are blue-ribboned and honest investors who will contribute to the economic growth of the country and help to provide jobs for all," Mr Foulkes said.

Also commenting on the noticeable absence of a majority of House members from the debate yesterday because of proceedings in "another place" and the fact that a debate as important as the budget has attracted so little public attention, Mr Foulkes suggested that the budget not be presented at a time so close to Christmas.

Touching on the problems in his constituency of Blue Hills, Mr Foulkes said that not only are the residents unable to get a telephone installed, they are also in urgent need of a fire station closer to their area.

He also told the House about the deplorable condition of some roads in his constituency and said it has reached a state where the residents are chipping in and buying fill to make repairs themselves.

Mr Foulkes also mentioned a situation in the subdivision of Garden Hills #3 where persons who have purchased lots have great difficulty in getting necessary utilities installed. He said the roads are in such a state that residents with a car cannot park it close enough to their homes at night where it will be safe.

Mr Foulkes said he has tried to contact the developer of the subdivision only to be told that he is in another country. The Shadow minister for Tourism suggested that the government pave the roads for the residents and recover the expenses from the developer.

"My constituents have also complained about the traffic jams at the junction of Carmichael Road and Blue Hill in the morning when it takes half an hour to get from Carmichael to Independence Drive," Mr Foulkes said, adding that both he and the Member for Carmichael, Frank Watson, have written to the Minister responsible about the possibility of a road being cut from Carmichael to Harrold Road. He said they were told this was under consideration. Mr Foulkes said he hopes some relief comes to his constituents in 1984.

Touching on the unemployment problem in the country, Mr Foulkes said that it has been affected to some degree by world economic recession, but pointed out that chronic unemployment in this country began as early as 1970. He said the cause

of this was the failure of government in expanding the economy at a sufficient enough rate to provide jobs for Bahamians.

"I repeat that the Free National Movement advocates foreign investment in the country, but not investors like the Joe Lehders or Fidel Castros or Robert Vescos who have been allowed to run free in this country by the PLP government. We advocate honest, blue-ribboned investors who will help expand the economy," Mr Foulkes said.

The Blue Hills representative suggested to House members that perhaps the Filipinos, who were brought in to work at the Cable Beach Hotel, were brought in because they were a part of a package deal, similar to that which took place in Manila.

"I suggest that they were a part of a package entered into by powerful people and that is why after all the noise was made, nobody could get them out of the country. Perhaps it was a similar deal to that which took place in Manila, put together by the gentleman on Paradise Island and Mr Lieber," Mr Foulkes said.

House Approval

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Dec 83 pp 1, 10

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Members of the House of Assembly unanimously approved the \$383.1 million 1984 budget in the wee hours of this morning and after wishing each other seasons greetings, adjourned for 45 days until Wednesday, February 1, next year.

Weary parliamentarians left the Chamber at 12:15 am, exactly one hour after FNM Chairman and Pine Ridge MP Cecil Wallace Whitfield, the last speaker of the debate, completed his address.

House Speaker Sir Clifford Darling, in wishing members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, noted that the three-day debate, which lasted 25 hours, was overshadowed by the hearings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry.

Sir Clifford said he did not believe that any member of the Chamber is involved in drug trafficking and hoped that at the end of the day, he is proven to be right.

He also called on members to exercise responsibility with dignity, honesty and sincerity and work harder next year.

House Leader and Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna, in wishing members seasons greetings, said that this year was a useful year which saw a great degree of cooperation among members to ensure that the House works in the way it should.

He said the House functioned in 1983 with a general consensus of the members and stressed that the bonds between the government and opposition members are much greater than their differences.

He hoped that next year, the opposition will be happy, healthy and free.

Official Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs joined Mr Hanna in wishing members a reasonably prosperous New Year and noted that cooperation between the government and opposition was better this year than the previous year.

He hoped that 1984 would see more cooperation and a greater degree of trust between members of the government and opposition.

The four bills approved, which made up the 1984 budget, were:

A bill for an Act for the appropriation of diverse sums of money for and towards defraying the expenses of the Government of the Bahamas on Revenue Account for the year 1984;

A bill for an Act for the appropriation of the sum of \$39,015,874 for and towards defraying the expenses of Government of the Bahamas for capital development for the year 1984;

A bill for an Act for the appropriation of further diverse sums of money for and towards defraying the expenses of the Government of the Bahamas during the year 1982;

And a bill for an Act to amend the Tariff Act, 1975 and to effect a related amendment to the Customs Management Act, 1976.

At one point during the committal stages there were only seven members on each side of the House and opposition MP. C. A. Smith went looking for other FNM members for the vote on the budget.

But a Government member went and fetched the other PLP members who were scattered throughout the House and brought the number on the government side to 19.

Adderley Slam at Civil Service

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 Dec 83 pp 1, 14

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

FOREIGN Minister and Attorney General Paul Adderley in what an opposition Senator called the "second most startling statement" for the year, charged Wednesday that the majority of civil servants, who will be paid 70 per cent of the 1984 budget, were "slouching" on the job while only a minority perform a day's work for a day's pay.

Mr Adderley, who is Government's Leader in the Senate, also declared during Senate debate of the 1984 \$383.1 million budget that Government has been pushed into the role of employer of last resort and the private sector has not assumed its responsibility in the area of unemployment.

In congratulating Mr Adderley on the "brave stand" he had taken yesterday, the recently appointed Free National Movement Senator Charles Virgil said the Foreign Minister's remarks meant that at least \$7 out of every \$10 in the budget will be spent on public servants' salaries.

Mr Adderley's statement came as he moved for the second reading of four bills comprising the nation's budget for next year, which was unanimously approved by Senators after four hours of debate.

In his budget communication two weeks ago, Deputy Prime Minister Arthur D Hanna said that the projected expenditure on recurrent account will be \$344.1 million and over \$39 million in the capital development account.

Mr Hanna, the Minister of Finance, also estimated revenues to be collected in 1984 at \$350 million. Debt servicing will carve out \$68 million from the expenditure on recurrent account.

Mr Adderley said that having

become the employer of last resort employing the largest number of people in the country, the public service, to a large extent, is not producing at the level desired and the productivity is "unbelievably low."

He said the people have to be taxed to pay the public servants and the bill of running the Government of the Bahamas.

According to Mr Adderley, paying water, telephone and electricity bills are not paying taxes because they are services. He said that one is taxed by paying real property tax, or Customs duties.

He said that the public service employs some 1,100 persons of all political persuasions and that his comments are not directed at the minority of public servants, whom he believes are performing a day's work for a day's pay.

He said that just as the private sector would not tolerate inefficiency or lack of production on the job, Government cannot go on extracting the people's money to pay tardy public servants.

He said that public servants are not paid because somebody prints the money but because somebody pays the money for them to be paid.

Mr Adderley said that Government is committed to the policy of employer of last resort in the Bahamas, which is a state of affairs that cannot go on much longer or indefinitely.

He told senators that over the last 10 years the country's foreign exchange earnings have increased relentlessly with benefits to the private sector increasing in direct proportion.

He said that one of the reasons why government has become the employer of last resort is because the private

their Bahamian counterparts, it has been accomplished mostly without foreign capital.

Mr Adderley said that the Bahamian businessman has been traditionally a merchant and has not been innovative or an investor of capital in businesses that create employment, which is a deficiency among Bahamian businessmen.

Seconding the motion was Senator Ruby Ann Darling, who called for efforts to keep tourists coming to the Bahamas and for Bahamians to continue to make tourists comfortable whenever they visit.

She also supported Mr Adderley's remarks about the public service, declaring that when one looks at the amount paid out of the budget for salaries, Bahamians do not get the kind of service they deserve.

Senator Darling said the public usually gets cold responses from clerks and are sometimes treated unkindly when requesting a service from civil servants.

sector has not assumed its responsibility regarding unemployment.

He said that if the private sector fulfilled its responsibility, a greater measure of employment would be created and unemployment would be reduced. He said that private enterprise has not been as imaginative and organized as it ought to be.

According to Mr Adderley, it is not the case that foreign investors brought new capital to the Bahamas, but only had the imagination and ingenuity to come up with the project while raising capital loans for their projects in the Bahamas.

As a result, the Foreign Minister said, while foreign investors have been more energetic and imaginative than

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 Dec 83 pp 1, 14

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

OPPOSITION Senate Leader J Henry Bostwick warned Government Wednesday that it cannot continue to saturate the civil service with public funds. He said Government's philosophy has caught up with it and as a result it has now become the employer of last resort in the country.

Senator Bostwick also criticized Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna's "far-reaching and controversial" remarks during his budget communication to the House of Assembly two weeks ago when he called the loyal opposition "traitors."

He said the opposition is appalled at being called traitors and that the party has never suggested the surrender of the country to foreigners.

In his remarks during the four-hour budget debate in the Senate yesterday, Senator Bostwick said that the fire had been taken out of his contribution because the job of opposing had been carried out by those whom he was supposed to have been opposing.

He said he found himself in accord with most of the Government Senators who spoke, including Foreign Minister and Attorney General Paul Adderley, who charged that only a minority of public servants were performing a day's work for a day's pay although they will be paid 70 per cent of the entire budget next year.

He said that since the 1972 budget debate in the Senate, he has been predicting economic destruction by the Government employing so many people and becoming increasingly involved in the private sector.

He said that now the government has become the employer of last resort by over

extending itself to take up the slack to ensure that as many people as possible get a slice of the economic pie whether they produce or not.

Charging that the "philosophy of the Government is catching up with it," Senator Bostwick said that Government "cannot continue to saturate the public service with public funds" because the vast majority are not producing up to par.

"There are too many who are there for no other reason than because their father, their mother or brother supported the PLP," he said, adding that unless something is done, the country will not get out of the rut that it is in.

He said that he heard a common theme running during the speeches on the budget and hoped that it is finally being realized that the PLPs and FNMs are all one people and that the FNM also want equality for all Bahamians.

He said he will not "sleep" on it because it has been a concern of his for many years and that to do otherwise would be to court disaster.

He said that at the FNM's recent convention, it was indicated that the opposition party may have to resort to civil disobedience and he told Senators that he subscribed fully to it.

He said that if a people are to be victimized, they need the resource to fight back and that is what civil disobedience was all about.

"If we are to be treated in that fashion, we will use any resource available in the confines of the Constitution to make our position clear," he said.

He said that Finance Minister Arthur Hanna, in his budget communication to the House,

made far-reaching and controversial utterances and that when he first started reading the 80-page communication, he thought Mr Hanna was referring to all of the representatives of the Bahamian people but that was not to be the case.

Senator Bostwick said that Mr Hanna reiterated the divisiveness that the Prime Minister created right after the 1982 general elections, in calling the opposition traitors.

"We are not traitors of our country," declared Senator Bostwick. "I am as true and as loyal a Bahamian as any one."

He said the Free National Movement "appalls being put in this kind of category by anybody."

He also referred to Mr Hanna's charge that the FNM wants to surrender the country to foreigners and said that "never to my knowledge as a member of the FNM or as an individual, was I a party to a suggestion that we surrender our country to foreigners."

He said that he took Government seriously when Mr Hanna called for unity because he is "tired and fed up with being called a traitor to this country."

He said that last week he got three mortgages from the Mortgage Corporation.

Senator Bostwick said he made an observation a few weeks ago and declared that he would never represent the Bahamas Government or any of its agencies, but no sooner than the ink had dried than three mortgages were sent to him.

Declaring that he will watch and wait, Senator Bostwick added: "The goodwill is beginning and maybe the Government will show some sign of maturity."

Senate Passage

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

THE SENATE adjourned sine die following a four-hour debate Wednesday when four bills comprising the nation's 1984 budget of \$383.1 were unanimously approved by opposition and government senators.

Before the adjournment, the senators wished each other, members of the Press and Senate clerks seasons greetings.

All of the Senators, with the exception of Sednate President Edwin Coleby, Vice President Bruce Braynen and Government Senate Leader Paul Adderley, sent their greetings at the end of their debate.

In his remarks, Mr Adderley said that 1983 had been a satisfying and sensational year and that the level of debate in the Upper Chamber had maintained a very high standard.

During yesterday's sitting, the following bills were read for the second time and committed,

and read for the third time and passed:

A Bill for an Act for the appropriation of divers sums of money for and towards defraying the expenses of the Government of the Bahamas on Revenue Account for the year 1984;

A Bill for an Act for the appropriation of the sum of \$39,015,874 for and towards defraying the expenses of the Government of the Bahamas for Capital Development for the year 1984;

A Bill for an Act for the appropriation of further divers sums of money for and towards defraying the expenses of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas during the year 1982;

And a Bill for an Act to amend the Tariff Act, 1975 and to effect a related amendment to the Customs Management Act, 1976.

CSO: 3298/371

TEXT OF HANNA'S 1984 BUDGET SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 Dec 83 pp 6-13

[Text]

FINANCE Minister Arthur Hanna in an 80-page Budget communication - which is to be debated by House members next week - announced yesterday what he called a "cautious and conservative" \$383.1 million budget for 1984.

He announced higher taxes on alcoholic beverages, cigarettes and oil and an increase on the insurance premium tax from 1 to three percent. On the other hand he eliminated all tax on baby formula and reduced taxes on televisions, radios, pre-recorded gramophone records and tapes.

Servicing of the public debt was the largest outlay in the Budget at \$65.5 million, with education next at \$61.7 million. Health followed with \$46.4 million, tourism at \$25 million and the police department at \$23.2 million.

Mr Hanna said that the estimated revenue on recurrent account is \$350.8 million while the estimated on recurrent account is projected at \$344.1 million.

As for insurance he said that early in 1984, government will initiate discussions with resident life and other than life insurance companies to establish an agreed time frame within which home office functions may be undertaken in the Bahamas.

He said that scores and possibly hundreds of jobs are created and maintained outside the Bahamas by multi-national

insurance companies in respect of their Bahamian operations and that in the past two years, about \$3 million Bahamian dollars were converted and remitted to head office outside the Bahamas for major services.

Following is the full text of Mr Hanna's Budget Communication:

Mr Speaker, we as the representatives of the Bahamian people ought to be greatly aware of the awesome responsibility that has been placed upon us to ensure the continued economic growth of the Bahamas for the benefit of all who live within our country. The greatest betrayal of our times would be to put the interest of ourselves above that principle. It is in the spirit of total commitment to the Bahamian people that we seek to fashion the development of our country with due regard to the rule of law.

We therefore condemn as irresponsible and reckless, calls by the minority for civil disorder and we reject the principle held by that same minority that we should surrender the Bahamian soul and his land into the hands of foreigners for some unknown reason.

Some years ago I said and I wish to repeat it again so that true Bahamian patriots can re-assure themselves: "We are citizens of the world, but we are first citizens of the Bahamas. We have a duty towards all mankind, yet we have a first

duty to the Bahamian people. We do not go anywhere as interlopers, but only if we are welcomed as equals and as comrades in a common quest."

This principle has enabled us to carve out of barren rocks one of the finest little countries in the world today in spite of world economic conditions that plagued the world for the last decade.

We look now to the future and step by step we are getting down to business to build.

It is with pleasure, therefore, that I lay on the table of this Honourable House the draft estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 1984.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to summarise the position before I go into greater detail for the convenience of members.

World economic conditions have improved in 1983 with most industrial countries, including the United States, registering higher rates of growth. The Bahamas has also benefitted from the trend particularly because of the recovery of the United States economy.

Our external reserves reached a high in April of \$157 million and by the end of October had levelled off at \$133 million. This compares favourably with the \$128.8 million a year earlier.

Strong economic growth contributed to a fall in the current account surplus of \$21.4 million for the first six months of 1983 compared with a surplus of

\$55.8 million for the same period a year earlier and although oil payments were down, growth of imports of non-oil merchandise, resulting from the expanding economy boosted the trade deficit by \$29 million. There has been a considerable drop, however, in the inflation rate. It is estimated that by year end inflation rate will be down to a record low of between 3% and 4%.

With the satisfactory performance of both the balance of payments and prices, the economy is well poised for the economic recovery which is already underway.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that we would have earned between \$660 million and \$670 million from tourism in 1982, a gain of 4.1% over 1981. In 1983 it is projected that we would earn between \$720 and \$730 million, an increase of some 9% over 1982. This brilliant performance was due mainly to the progressive and aggressive steps taken by the government and the industry and particularly those involved in the overall development of tourism.

The broad objectives of the Ministry of Tourism will be to boost air arrivals and at the same time pay special attention to other key objectives and the Family Islands.

There would also be an effort to broaden the tourist base. In pursuance of these objectives I have allocated sizeable funds for this purpose and will increase those funds if it becomes necessary to achieve our objectives.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of infrastructural development, details of which I will give later, the government proposes to continue the development of water projects, roadworks, and electricity in the Family Islands. The road surfacing programme in New Providence will continue in 1984. Nassau International Airport will be expanded to assist in alleviating the congestion at that airport and the Exuma airport will be built.

In the case of health care, special attention will be given to the areas of human resource development, environmental health, community health

services, drug abuse acute care services, the Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport, the upgrading of facilities at the Princess Margaret Hospital and improved facilities at Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre. I propose to deal more fully with these matters later on.

Mr. Speaker, the department of Agriculture has established a priority list of agro-industrial projects in our efforts towards self-sufficiency. Special attention will be paid to the northern islands and the south-eastern islands. The fish landing complex was completed and we are now poised for a major thrust in the development of the fishing industry.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that 1984 will see a major breakthrough in our efforts to diversify and expand the economy. Our plan calls for active participation from Bahamians and the involvement of foreign investment. In this regard sections of the Soldier Road Industrial Park have been cleared and prepared for the erection of new factories and several projects have been approved for location at this site. The Free Trade Zone will soon be established and legislation will be introduced shortly to facilitate this effort. Next year and in the years to come many Bahamians will be able to find opportunities for employment and will be able to learn new skills. The priority of the government is to ensure the expansion of the economy and that all Bahamians will be able to find jobs and their right to employment will be fully satisfied.

The New Cable Beach Hotel and Casino has been completed. Many Bahamians have already been employed at that hotel and casino and more will be employed in the coming weeks. It is expected that construction of new hotels will be undertaken. These will provide more employment and more opportunities and together with the further development of the Industrial Park and the establishment of the Free Trade Zone, 1984 is a promising year as we seek to put all our people

on jobs and establish Bahamians in profitable businesses. We seek to ensure that Bahmians, particularly those who had no opportunity in the past, share in the wealth of the nation and make their contribution to the development of our country.

Mr. speaker, the government's efforts in education have been successful. Bahamians are involved in all facets of the economy and the affairs of our country. We continue to pursue our policy towards quality and relevant education. Notwithstanding our limited resources, it is proposed to construct additional classrooms, build new primary and secondary schools both in New Providence and the Family Islands, improve teachers accommodation, build new teachers cottages, complete the new technical, vocational and industrial facilities, improve teaching training facilities, repair damaged classrooms and toilet facilities and increase school supplies and furniture. Education will still require the largest slice of the budget pie and I believe this is how it should be because our most precious resources are our people and we must equip them properly if our country is to grow and prosper now and in the years to come. Again, I shall deal more fully with these later on.

Mr. Speaker, the government will continue to seek to mobilize the energies of our youth through community education and involvement in sports. The sports facilities will be improved both in New Providence and the Family Islands. Special emphasis will be placed on repairing and upgrading community parks and playgrounds which have become important to the youth of our country.

Mr. Speaker, the present strength of the Police Force will be increased and efforts will be made to improve the conditions and comfort of our police officers. Tighter security measures will be effected at the prisons and other works will be undertaken including a new sewerage and cesspit system to

serve both the prison and the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre.

Mr. Speaker, the primary functions of the Defence Force are the prevention of drug smuggling, the prevention of poaching by foreigners, the curtailment of the influx of illegal immigrants, and the patrol and surveillance of the waters of the Bahamas. Provision, therefore, has been made for the expansion of the Defence Force Fleet, the recruitment of additional manpower, the procurement of equipment and supplies, the increase in maritime patrol and continued development of the Coral Harbour Base.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to the principle that it will house our people — that it will eradicate substandard houses, rebuild all depressed and dilapidated sections throughout the Bahamas; and build new houses. All these things may be beyond us but until all Bahamians are properly housed, we shall continue step by step in our efforts to house ourselves.

I have made provisions for the sustaining of our social services of which we are indeed proud.

In short, therefore, Mr. Speaker, my budget is geared towards the continued development of our infrastructure, the expansion of education, the development of our economy, the provision of jobs for the unemployed, the upgrading of health care, the elimination of poverty and the security of our nation.

In keeping with my responsibility and the duty which I owe to this House and the nation I will now deal with the matters which I have just outlined.

International Economic Developments

There has undoubtedly been a turnaround in the global economic situation in 1983, with most industrial countries registering higher rates of growth. In fact the projected rate of growth for the major industrial countries of 3 per cent is now expected to be even higher. This resurgence of growth has been

led by economic recovery in the United States. Inflation, which had already abated in 1982 to an average of 7 per cent remained low in 1983 and actually declined further in many countries. It is projected that inflation in 1983 will average around 5 per cent for major industrial countries. Oil price declines served to strengthen the economic recovery and to lower current account deficits of oil importing countries. Lower prices have also found their way into the reduction of high interest rates which had served to prolong the recession. Reversing the stagnation in 1981 and the decline in 1982 in the volume of world trade, 1983 is expected to show growth of around 1 per cent despite protectionist sympathies. Oil exporting countries which enjoyed a \$7.1 billion surplus on current account in 1981 and which saw that disappear altogether in 1982, are expected to show a deficit of around \$27 million in 1983. Industrial countries as a group, on the other hand, are projected to move from a position of rough balance on current account to a modest surplus position, although there will be divergent positions within the group. The non-oil developing countries which recorded a combined current account deficit of some \$87 billion in 1982 are expected to show an improvement in this deficit position to around \$68 billion in 1983. However, this improvement is expected to result from a reduction in payments rather than from growth in receipts.

Unemployment, which averaged about 8 per cent of the labour force in major industrial countries in 1982 showed some improvement, notably in the United States, although there were countries which continued to register growth in unemployment.

Developments In The United States

In the United States the GNP growth rate at 2.6% for the first quarter, saw an acceleration to 9.7% in the second quarter and then slowed to a still very high rate of 7.0% in the third quarter. Inflation which fell to

3.9% at the end of 1982 was down even further by the end of August 1983, when it stood at 2.6%. The current account of the balance of payments, however, took an adverse turn with a twelve month deficit at the end of June 1983 of \$26.5 billion compared with a modest \$4.5 billion surplus for 1982. A deficit in traded goods of \$56.7 billion accounted for the deterioration in the current account. Unemployment which reached 10.8% in December, 1982 fell to 9.3% at the end of September.

While the United States have had little success with reducing the size of the federal budget deficit, it has maintained a fairly tight yet accommodative monetary policy. Its prime rate which stood at 11% at the end of 1982 was reduced in February to 10.5% where it remained until July when it again rose to 11%.

The value of the US dollar on international foreign exchange markets reached relatively high levels in 1983 and may be overvalued. The US dollar made considerable gains against most foreign currencies. Against the SDR the gain for the first eight months was 5.6%, against the French franc 21.2%, the Deutschmark 13.9%, the pound sterling 8.1%, the Swiss franc 10.0% and 4.9% in relation to the yen.

Domestic Economic Developments

Having fared better than most oil-importing developing countries during the recent global recession, the Bahamas has since begun to benefit from the recovery of the United States economy. External reserves peaked at the end of April at around \$157.0 million, having subsequently fallen to around \$133.0 million at the end of October. At this level the reserves compare favourably with the \$128.8 million of a year earlier.

Strong economic growth contributed to a fall in the current account surplus to \$21.4 million for the first six months of 1983 compared with a surplus of \$55.8 million for the same period a year earlier. While oil payments were down, growth in imports of non-oil merchandise, resulting from an

expanding economy, boosted the trade deficit of \$29.0 million. There was reduction in the capital account surplus by \$22.6 million brought about mainly by a decrease in public sector foreign borrowing.

The narrow money supply demonstrated the usual wide fluctuations and by late October recorded an increase of 15.5%. The broader measure of money with its more stable growth posted an increase of 11.3% for the first 10 months of this year, compared to a growth of 12.3% for the corresponding period last year. This growth in broad money amounted to an increase of \$58.8 million. The somewhat slower growth in demand for money this year has led to an improvement in the banking system's liquidity position which is substantially more liquid than in 1982.

The end of October 1983 has been domestic credit grew by \$43.3 million or 7.1% with \$55.8 million or 8.2% in the same period last year. Net credit to the public sector increased by \$34.6 million and compares with \$19.2 million for the corresponding period in 1982. Developments in private sector credit reflected the reduction in the interest rate differentials between domestic and foreign borrowing, resulting in greater use of suppliers' credit and a reduced rate of expansion in Bahamian dollar credit. Credit to the private sector grew by only \$8.6 million or 1.7% which compares with \$30.9 million or 8.3% in 1982.

Following on price developments in the economies of our major trading partners, notably the United States, the retail price index shows a considerable drop in the inflation rate. In the twelve-month period to September 1983, the year-over-year increase in retail prices dropped to 3.20% from 5.50% during the same period last year and 9.51% two years ago. The annual rate of increase of retail prices during the period was 4.33% compared with 7.05% in 1982. It is estimated that by year-end the inflation rate will be down to a record low of between 3% and 4%. Food prices led this decline with a drop from a 3.3% rate in December to 0.2% by September. Clothing and footwear also contributed to this decline

from a 10% rate to 2.3% for the same period. Transport prices dropped to a rate of 4.4% from 7.4%. Housing costs continue to rise at too high a rate while the increase in health costs have continued at a moderate rate of around 5%. Other prices, while rising somewhat faster than at the end of 1982 continue to be moderate. In short, when compared with high inflation rates in most industrial countries, the performance of our country in this regard is excellent.

With the satisfactory performance of both the balance of payments and prices, the economy is well poised for the economic recovery which is already underway.

The latest available statistics indicate a levelling off of construction activity in New Providence where the number of permits issued decreased during the first nine months of 1983 by 1.3% to 1,566 from 1,586 during the same period in 1982. There was a 52% decrease in the value from \$156 million to \$75 million. There was, however, a 9.2% increase in the number of starts from 861 to 940 but 44.2% drop in value from \$109 million to \$61 million. Completions rose 19.5% in number and 44.6% in value to 565 and \$46 million respectively.

Tourism

At this same time last year it was expected that earnings from tourism during 1982 would yield \$690 million. More recent estimates, however, indicate that the actual yield was between \$660 million and \$670 million. This is still a gain of some 4.1% over 1981's earnings.

During 1983 world tourism began to recover from its slump in the early 1980's. The US economy began to show signs of recovery during late 1982 which was maintained during early 1983. By the summer it was felt the US economy had moved beyond recovery into expansion, as inflation was reduced to historically low levels and real disposable income began to expand. The net result was that Americans began to travel again in increasing numbers during 1983, and in many instances to take the vacation which had to be postponed during the depths of

the recession of 1981 and 1982.

But a less beneficial outcome of the US economy's recovery was the value of the US dollar strengthened significantly against other currencies, particularly European and Latin American currencies. This in turn resulted in many more Americans travelling to Europe during 1983, because Europe had become cheap. At the same time fewer Europeans travelled to North America, the Bahamas and the Caribbean area because dollar bloc countries became relatively more expensive.

The end result was the strengthening of a trend apparent since 1980. In 1982, US residents accounted for 84% of our arrivals, up from 78% in 1980. 1983 could see this move up to comprise 87-88% of our arrivals.

Competing warm weather destinations have maintained fiercely aggressive positions in the US marketplace during 1983. Both Jamaica and Mexico

boosted their US stopover business significantly, comparing this year with 1982, but despite this, I am pleased to report that the Bahamas has performed as well as, if not better than, most of our competitors within the Caribbean region. We project, by year end, a record 2.2 million arrivals, an overall increase of 12.1 per cent over 1982. This reflects a strong 8.6 per cent increase in air arrivals. The net result expected is a yield of some \$720 — \$730 million in 1983, an increase of some 9 per cent over the amount earned in 1982.

Although this is an overall picture of growth, certain key facts should be mentioned. It is the stopover visitor who represents the higher visitor expenditure. Although total arrivals have climbed 17% since 1980, from 1.91 million to a projected 2.2 million by year end, all of this growth has been in sea arrivals. 1983 will still see fewer air stopovers than arrived in the Bahamas in 1980.

At a time when the number of our hotel rooms is expanding considerably, when our young people need employment and it is widely known that every 30 new stopover visitors create the equivalent of one full time job, the government recognises that intensive efforts have to be made to attract significantly

increased volumes of stopover visitors. To that end the government has prepared comprehensive strategies to achieve this basic objective.

But there is one significant constraint. Much, if not all, of this incremental growth in air arrivals can only come from the USA. The Canadian economy will remain relatively weak in 1984 as will most European and Latin American economies, and the US dollar will remain strong, compounding the overall problem that we face in the other market areas.

We know this. But so do our competitors. It is, therefore, clear that the USA will be the battleground where the fight for the air visitor will be fought. And our competitors will be even more aggressive next year than they have been this year as many of them invest heavily in tourism promotion in an effort to save their faltering economies. This is particularly true of Mexico, Jamaica and Venezuela.

To remain a dominant force in the US marketplace next year will be expensive. And yet we cannot allow ourselves to become totally dependent upon one market. We need to maintain our presence in more far flung markets, in Europe and Latin America and in the developing markets of the Far East.

In 1983 we expect to see \$25 returned for every dollar spent by the government. While still an excellent return, this is down marginally over the past years due to the intense competition, and because tourists are spending less. But the government has clear strategies in place to boost this return. It will be done by increasing the number of stopover visitors arriving in the Bahamas. To meet this objective, I have found it wise to again place large sums at the disposal of the Ministry of Tourism and I am prepared to increase the amount if it appears advisable to do so.

While the broad objective of the government for 1984 will be to boost air arrivals, other key objectives will be addressed.

Intensive efforts will be made against the key markets of Florida, the south and the south-west of the United States, particularly in efforts to attract the 'spontaneous' air visitor. Significant emphasis will be placed against developing tourist arrivals into the Family Islands. This will demand not only specific promotional campaigns for the key Family Islands and working closely with major carriers to improve access, but also with the residents themselves to further improve what is a high quality but insufficiently known product.

There will be a renewed commitment to ensuring that the Bahamas vacation product is maintained at an appealing high standard. Efforts will be made through a coordinated programme of product development and improvement, involving all segments of the industry, to assure our product superiority in relation to our competitors so as to maintain the credibility of our slogan "It's Better In The Bahamas." These efforts, however, will be guided by the philosophy which places the interest of Bahamians first so that tourism is perceived as a vehicle for contributing to a better quality of life for Bahamians.

Recognising that our most important resource to meet the challenges of the New Frontier is our own people, we will be placing even greater emphasis on training and generally on the competitive significance of the 'people' element of our product. Owing to the dominance of the tourism industry in the Bahamian economy and its effect on other sectors of the economy, we shall recognise that tourism message on a continuing basis through an on-going national tourism awareness programme to the Bahamian community in order to foster a positive attitude towards visitors and to promote good visitor/Bahamian relations.

With the anticipated continuing growth in tourist arrivals over the next year, efforts will

be made to increase the capability of the destination to deliver a satisfying vacation experience through the provision of additional activities, upgrading existing visitor attractions, improvements to our visitor reception services, and a general face-lift to the downtown area to create a more pleasing and attractive environment while at the same time enhancing our reputation for shopping through further tariff reductions on selected items.

Efforts will be made to encourage the development of new attractions and consideration will be given to appropriate incentives to involve enterprising Bahamians in this new dimension of tourism expansion.

We will accentuate elements of our cultural heritage as expressed in song, dance and art and we shall create the opportunities for broadening the visitor contact with Bahamians in order to give them a better appreciation of the qualities of the Bahamian people and their way of life as well as a better understanding of the country's culture and customs.

The Government continues to take the lead and has provided the climate of stability for all to flourish. The private sector is called upon to do their part by making similar important commitments which will ensure the continued growth of our main industry.

Ministry of Works and Utilities

The Government continues to upgrade our infrastructural facilities and extend them. New water projects are under construction in Andros at Blanket Sound and Cargill Creek and in San Salvador in the United Estates area. New schemes will be undertaken in 1984 where greatest needs are identified and the maximum number of inhabitants can benefit from the capital investment.

The road resurfacing programme has continued in 1983 and Bay Street in particular has been completed with a noticeable upgrading to the area. This is a sharp contrast with the condition of Bay Street during

the period of sewer renewal. During 1984 I have provided funds to continue this programme of resurfacing work. Footpath repairs will follow in 1984 to complete the total upgrading of the highway.

The sheer mileage of roads in the Family Islands make it difficult, if not impossible, to ensure high standard maintenance on all roads, during 1984 we will be looking critically at the road network, the needs of the community in social and commercial terms and a variety of standards of road repair that such factors can support. I regard infrastructural development as an instrument towards economic growth.

Ministry of Health

Mr Speaker, our health care facilities are without question the finest in the region and yet we continue to improve those facilities to continue to keep the high standards to which our people have become accustomed. I have therefore committed funds for this purpose.

Special attention will be given to the areas of human resource development, environmental health, community health services, drugs abuse and acute care services.

Human Resource Development

During 1984 concentration will be given to the preparation of nurses both at the college of the Bahamas and in the Ministry of Health's diploma programme. Physical facilities for the latter will receive much needed boost through the World Bank Project. Work on the site has already been started and design of a new facility, which will also provide a facility to meet the many continuing education programmes is underway.

Preparation of Health aides — an auxiliary group of personnel introduced in the system this past year — will continue.

Managers with special expertise in health care delivery will commence training to guarantee an expanded and improved management capability throughout.

Environmental Health

To date, millions of dollars have been spent on numerous clean-up campaigns through the provision of new equipment and additional personnel. A tour of New Providence, however, reveals that it is now imperative for a more aggressive and comprehensive approach to be taken if we are to succeed in this venture.

It is evident that we cannot succeed without the full support of the public. Community participation is paramount if we are to change the attitudes and behaviour inherent in the community in this regard.

Further expansion of the environmental health fleet will be made through the purchase of additional heavy-duty vehicles and the parts inventory will be expanded to ensure an effective service and maintenance programme.

Recommendations are already in hand to expand the management and technical capabilities of this unit. In this light, specialists would be recruited to assist with environmental monitoring of pollution and solid waste management. The continued support of the Pan American Health Organisation in this regard has been confirmed.

Community Health Services

Greater accessibility of service to the population will be accomplished through the expansion of community-based services. The provision of funds from the National Insurance Board will facilitate this exercise, the consequence of which will be a greater awareness of illness and disease prevention through primary health care where not only mothers and infants are seen, but family services are provided. These broader-base services should reflect an improvement in the overall health of the community and foster greater community involvement in matters relating to the community itself.

Drug Abuse

Unfortunately, I must advise this honourable chamber that drug abuse among Bahamians is

increasing significantly. The involvement with hard drugs is acute. National support is required to prevent any further erosion of our society in this regard.

During 1984 the bed space at Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre will be expanded to provide additional specialist services for this particular group. Simultaneous to this exercise, a national committee will convene to study the full impact of this social ill and recommend types and levels of treatment programme necessary.

It is likely that a specialised drug rehabilitation centre would be required to adequately address the situation. Cooperation of all parties is expected since the drug user is not restricted by social barriers and the loss of financial capability and manhours is most destructive to the efficient development of national economy.

Acute Care Services

Specialist services will continue to be provided at the Princess Margaret Hospital and the Rand Memorial Hospital.

During 1984 the facilities at the Princess Margaret Hospital and the Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport will be upgraded.

I have again committed sizeable funds to the Ministry of Health for we regard the health of our people as a vital factor in the development of our society.

Diversification

Mr Speaker, as I said earlier, I believe that 1984 will see a major breakthrough in our efforts to diversify and expand the economy. Plans are underway for the implementation of additional projects both by Bahamian and foreign investors. The Development of Light Industries will play a major role in this regard. During the year nineteen businesses have been registered under the Industries Encouragement Act and most of them have been established. This year also saw the ground breaking of the expected free trade zone. Funds will be advanced for the development

of this facility which we hope to begin as early as possible in the New Year. Sections of the Soldier Road Industrial Park have been cleared and prepared for the erection of new factories.

Mr Speaker, I have a duty to say something about the Cable Beach Hotel. The government took the decision to build the Cable Beach Hotel for the purpose of giving further impetus to the tourist industry by leading the way in the fuller development of the industry. In addition this provided job opportunities for hundred of Bahamians with spin off benefits affecting many more. The favourable dramatic impact of this effort on the economy will be substantial and will be seen clearly next year and in the years to come. The Bahamas is one of the leading tourist destinations in the world; in fact the Bahamas has the highest per capita earning from tourism in the world. It makes good sense, therefore, that we should seek to provide one of the finest facilities in the world. The Cable Beach Hotel has gone a long way in establishing our goals. I hope that all Bahamians will now seek to make this investment successful.

Agriculture

The Government has established a priority list of Agro-industrial Projects the development of which can contribute maximally, to our self-sufficiency efforts. In the Northern Islands, these projects include beef, dairy and mutton production, animal feeds, edible oils manufacture, fruit and vegetable crops for export or processing, molasses and horticultural products. It is expected that with assistance from The Development Bank, private banks and other sources, young Bahamian men and women will be able to establish many such production units.

As part of the development of the south eastern islands, the government has planned small pig units, poultry units, crop production units, certain processing facilities and sheep and goat units to be established between now and 1987. Although this effort is already in

progress, 1984 will see major expansion in this drive. It is envisaged that the output from these units will improve the nutritional status of our people in the South Eastern Islands, as well as making a significant contribution, especially in the area of root crops and storable crops to overall national food security.

The most vital element in our Agro-industrial drive is that there be willing and capable crops of well trained, dedicated, enthusiastic, highly motivated individuals who will operate as owners, managers, employers, employees and business persons. In this regard the government proposes to mount certain training projects. These training projects are, in the first instance, to train suitable persons, who will either own or manage the small and medium scale production units mentioned earlier. The first of these training courses, a one year course in pig husbandry, is scheduled to commence before the end of the year. Funding for these units will be organised through the Development Bank and the Department of Agriculture.

Following the start made in 1983, we will, during 1984, conduct simultaneous courses in agronomy, Horticulture and small ruminant production. Whereas the swine production course will be held in New Providence, the other courses will be conducted at the research centres in North Andros and Long Island. At the end of each course, efforts will be made to establish production units in the respective areas. It is our hope that such units will serve as demonstration models for thousands of other Bahamians, who will come to understand that the future development of this country will be largely determined by the extent to which we can develop our agricultural potential and thereby, successfully tap the largest reservoir of potential new employment.

Fisheries

The Fish Landing Complex at Potters Cay was completed in March of this year at a cost of \$3.7 million. Testing and

limited scale operations began in April.

Full scale operation of the complex will begin in 1984. Ice and freezer storage services are presently available at the complex. Fuel services, fishing supplies and a canteen service will be added shortly. These services, coupled with improved landing and marketing practices and conditions, are expected to have a catalytic effect on the development of the fishing industry.

The detailed shallow water resource assessment survey which began is still underway.

The survey of the little Bahama Bank has indicated large quantity of grouper, snapper and grunts with highest densities on the exposed portions of the Bank. At the completion of the project, maps will be prepared illustrating resource density distribution for the area, and the survey will form the basis of a strategy for full exploitation of the shallow water fishery resources.

During 1983 considerable interest was expressed by the private sector in the development of aquaculture in the Bahamas and the Government has agreed to provide incentive towards the development of this type of activity. During 1984 comprehensive regulations designed to promote and encourage participation in aquaculture will be introduced and it is anticipated that at least 5 major private sector projects will develop, providing jobs for a large number of Bahamians.

Emphasis will continue to be placed on artisanal fishery development in the Family Islands.

In cooperation with the Bahamas Development Bank financing for small fishing units that is, engines and basic equipment, will be made available to fishermen in the Family Islands on attractive credit terms. It is hoped that up to 50 such units can be developed during 1984 providing economic activity for about 100 persons.

Land And Forestry Development

The Government will continue to protect its valuable

assets in land for the benefit of the Bahamian people both of present and future generations. The policy of ensuring that the allocation and utilization of the land will be conducted in the best possible way to maximize these assets and to develop and maintain the lands in keeping with the government's land policy will continue.

Land will be made available for Agricultural and Agro-industrial purposes in areas of the Family Islands where conditions are appropriate for such development projects.

Land has been set aside for housing development on New Providence as well as for settlement expansion on the Family Islands. Bahamians will be given the opportunity of obtaining suitable parcels of land for establishing their homes, businesses and light industries wherever possible.

Government lands already leased will be closely monitored to ensure that the agreed terms and conditions are being complied with and appropriate action will be taken to resume the lands if they are not properly utilized and developed.

During 1984 the Government proposes to implement a Forest Development project in the Pine Islands of Andros, Abaco and Grand Bahama in order to develop this valuable national resource.

The development of the pine forest and other hardwood forests will provide the nation with timeless resources in the future for the production of wood for building, furniture and other related forest product industries, which will create employment opportunities.

Education

Mr Speaker, the Government's early efforts in education have been successful to the extent that Bahamians can be found involved and managing all facets of the affairs of this country, in the public as well as in the private sphere. The Government has not changed its position. Indeed Sir, the only change in the position is a wider dimension, which places stress on quality education and which deepens this government's commitment to the develop-

ment of the Bahamian people. The 1984 draft estimates reflect in financial and numerical terms our deep commitment of unqualified resolve to continue our successful drive in this regard.

Our emphasis on quality education is reflected in real terms having regard, for example, to the number of trained teachers in our system. In 1983 there was an establishment quota of some 2,192 trained teachers while for 1984 provision has been made for some 2,300 trained teachers, an overall increase of some 108 trained teaching personnel. Given an overall public school enrollment of some 48,000 pupils as of September 1984; these figures represent a national teacher/pupil ratio of one teacher for every 20.8 pupils overall. This is a remarkable achievement which sets us apart from other developing countries and even some of the developed ones, and is particularly remarkable when reviewed against the circumstances of our historical and geographical conditions. In addition to this, there are also in our schools, a steadily decreasing number of untrained teachers, librarians, craft instructors, guidance counsellors and other specialists all aiming to achieve one common goal of imparting a good basic education to our students.

During 1984, the government fully intends to under-take its responsibility in the continued implementation of the curriculum and in the maintenance of proper standards in our schools. To this end, provision has been made in the 1984 estimates for the formation of an effective supervisory force which will audit the performance of schools in the delivery of a proper standard of education. It is proposed that a cadre of experienced educators will comprise an inspectorate which will also be charged with the responsibility of providing guidance for young teachers who are developing their skills and experience.

In pursuit of our objective for quality education and realising that our nation cannot

continue to rely on an unlimited source of foreign teachers, especially in our basic priority subjects which include the sciences, maths and English, a wide range of policies are operational and being planned for early implementation, which will provide added incentives for students considering entering teacher training, and to encourage higher qualifications for trained teachers. I am pleased to announce that these proposals are well underway and are beginning to show good fruits.

Again, Mr Speaker, you will find that there exists a general consensus, that significant improvement has been made in the area of school supplies, textbooks and equipment. Such improvements must go hand in hand with improvements to the school environment and are components in the drive towards improved standards. In 1984, the drive to supply the nation's schools with equipment and supplies and with school furniture will continue. In addition, efforts will continue, aimed at insuring that those students requiring assistance either in the ordinary course of their education or because of any of the physical disabilities, will receive the required educational support.

Mr Speaker, the capital development estimates for the Ministry of Education are realistic, and we believe that they reflect our present areas of priority. In the main, therefore, the capital estimates are designed to reflect the continuing demands for the provision of secondary education in Islands outside of New Providence. This programme is in keeping with the government's commitment to provide equal access of opportunity to all its citizens in accordance with national resources.

We appreciate that many of the schools in New Providence and Grand Bahama are experiencing overcrowding due mainly to population movement and due, to some extent, to the growth of the school population. In the Urban areas and on the Islands with relatively large centres of population, the move

to more closely align student's progress through the school system to scholastic achievements, will severely strain the ability of existing school buildings to adequately house the projected expansion. In addition, consistent with the Government's policy of equal opportunity for all Bahamians, it will be necessary to construct secondary school facilities in some Islands as well as to expand existing facilities to allow for the admission of students age 11 and up — thus providing a full five years of high school education. In pursuit of this, the government proposes to begin construction of primary schools in New Providence and Freeport in 1984, a secondary school in New Providence and North Long Island and North Eleuthera. Plans have also advanced very far in connection with new school buildings to house the secondary school at Marsh Harbour, and the primary schools are Lowe Sound and Fresh Creek, Andros. These facilities will also provide the additional accommodation necessary to provide for skills training as an integral aspect of technical and vocational education and a complementary aspect of the National Industrial Training Programme.

Mr Speaker, the Industrial Training Scheme which was launched in 1980 will have, by March 1984, entered its fourth year of existence. The programme has proven to be extremely effective in imparting to young adults, many without a basic secondary education and many also, without the basic tools to lead a productive life, an opportunity for a better life. During 1984 the scheme will adopt several new features:

- (1) The objectives of the scheme will be re-appraised to bring it more in line with the changing demands of the labour market and the more demanding career structural

premises requiring roof, window, floor, siding windows and door repairs to make such premises wind water and water tight and eliminate holes for rodents will be increased from \$500.00 to \$750.00.

In addition a Special Repair Crew from the Ministry of Housing and National Insurance will carry out necessary repairs while in other less deserving cases assistance will be limited to the maximum grant by way of the purchase of materials.

4. Disability Allowance in respect of medically and emotionally disabled persons who are unable to qualify for Invalidity Assistance from the National Insurance Board which is presently \$60.00 per month will be increased to \$80.00 per month.

Charities

During 1984 the Minister of Housing and National Insurance will initiate community based discussion involving the Department of Social Services, other Government agencies and local charities to examine the matter of the proper registration, administration and funding of charities in the Commonwealth. The Government will continue to support and encourage the development of existing charities which provide valuable and critical services in the broad area of human welfare.

The Government has committed the sum of \$323,294. For disbursement to local charities in 1984 under the administration of the Department of Social Services.

Performance for 1983

Mr Speaker, 1983 saw a year of tourism growth yet we were unable to reach the projected revenue which I estimated a year earlier. I now project that by the end of the year the revenue collected will be \$307 million instead of \$327 million estimated a year earlier. However the revenue was up over 1982. There will be an increase of \$11 million this year over the revenue received for 1982. There was also an increase in expenditure. Estimated expenditure for 1983 was \$325 million. My revised estimates of expenditure now is \$332 million. The main revenue, customs revenue, realised an increase over what I projected

for 1983 yet there was a shortfall overall. This was due mainly to the fall in revenues from the oil facility in Grand Bahama which, though owing, was not collected because of difficulties in the industry, because of the unexpected glut in the oil market. There was also a shortfall in the revenues expected from casino taxes as one of the casinos closed during the year. Revenues collected from Real Property Tax did not reach our estimates because of the refusal or neglect of persons from whom taxes are due, particularly owners of the more expensive properties. In this regard I have directed that these revenues be collected as soon as possible. Apart from these unpredictable events, Mr Speaker, the projections have been realistic.

Mr Speaker, I said expenditure also increased. This again was due mainly to unexpected events. For example I was forced to advance \$10 million to the Bahamas Electricity Corporation in late 1982 which affected our 1983 position and about \$5 million to Bahamasair which I did not and could not reasonably anticipate. Carelessness, recklessness, vandalism, sabotage and poor performance without due regard to the public interest by some persons employed in these agencies have caused not only discomfort and inconvenience to the public but also cost the public sizeable funds which we are forced to bear if we are to continue with these services. The illegal and wanton destruction of telephone and electrical cables and installations are crimes against the state and against the whole population and efforts must be made to detect and catch those criminals who, on the face of it, are pursuing those measures in purported pursuance of trade disputes.

Mr Speaker, notwithstanding all this, I am pleased with the performance for 1983. Despite the persistence of world problems and economic depression, though showing signs of recovery, we have been able to reduce our inflation rate to 3.2% at the present time and we will end this year with a healthy balance of payments position. The full positive effect of developments in 1983 such as the opening of the Cable Beach Hotel and Casino and the introduction of several light industries and

businesses will be felt in 1984. I am empowered to pledge on behalf of The Government and all Progressive Party representatives that we will be getting down to business step by step.

The 1984 Budget

Mr Speaker, it is against this background of what I have said earlier that I have fashioned the 1984 budget.

I have taken into account the need to maintain our competitive edge in the tourist industry, further expand our educational drive, diversify the economy, attract more developmental capital, provide more homes for our people, protect the security of our citizens and the nation, inspire our farmers and fishermen to greater production, provide suitable infrastructure in our country and to assist the sick, the poor, the old and the youth of our country.

The estimated revenue on recurrent account is \$350.8 million. Again, I have been both cautious and conservative in my projections. The estimated expenditure on recurrent account is projected at \$344.1 million. I anticipate a surplus of about \$6.7 million which I propose to contribute to the Capital Development Account.

The main areas of increased recurrent expenditure for 1984 are as follows:

1. To Public Debt Servicing — \$65.5 million, an increase of \$6.8 million or 11%;
2. To the Police Department — \$23.2 million, an increase of \$4.8 million or 25%;
3. To Education — \$61.7 million an increase of \$3.3 million or 6%.
4. To the Ministry of Health — \$46.4 million, an increase of \$1.8 million of 4%.

The Treasury Department has received an increase of \$1.5 million due to the increase of pensions and gratuities. I have also provided an additional sum of \$8 million for the second instalment of the three-year award programme of salary increases for public officers.

I have allocated the sum of \$25 million to the Ministry of Tourism and will consider committing further funds as it appears necessary so to do in the public's interest and the expansion of the economy.

Mr Speaker, because of what I have said earlier, it has become necessary to introduce certain revenue raising measures.

I have therefore today increased customs duties on ciga-

demands and needs. This should be completed early in 1984 and will become the basis for a comprehensive ten year housing policy.

The Bahamas Mortgage Corporation

The supply of mortgage funds is critical to the growth of home ownership. Until recently only a relatively small number of low income families and few family islanders were able to obtain mortgage financing for the construction, purchase or upgrading of homes.

The government took steps in 1983 to establish the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation to ensure reasonable access to mortgage funds and to increase the flow of mortgage funds into the housing sector. Already there are commitments for a total of \$40 million over the next four years from the clearing banks and the National Insurance Board for funding of the corporation's mortgage portfolio.

There are many whose needs do not quite fit the conventional lending criteria but the corporation will have the flexibility to establish more liberal lending policies. Such policies will include a higher percentage of mortgage for those who cannot raise funds for large deposits and lower rates of interest to bring the monthly payment within the reach of others.

The Bahamas Mortgage Corporation opened its doors to the public on November 1, 1983 and has already received scores of applications and scores more enquired. It is expected that about 300 persons will be assisted to home ownership through the Corporation's programme in 1984.

National Insurance

The National Insurance Scheme has now been accepted as a necessary national institution. The scheme will be completing a decade in October 1984 and it is proposed that this significant mile stone be observed by appropriate activities.

Notice was given earlier in 1983 that a new contributions ceiling and methods of computing and collecting contributions will be introduced in July 1984 to enable the benefits of the programme to keep pace with the increase in the wages

and salaries the benefits are intended to replace. A number of legislative amendments giving effect to those changes and others including a provision for a National Health Insurance will be made in 1984.

National Insurance Schemes in developing countries generally have dual roles, i.e. serving social objectives and providing a source of funds for economic development. The objective of our national development is not only economic growth but also a better way of life for each citizen. The National Insurance Board will therefore pursue an investment mix of the scheme's resources which gives due regard to the traditional investment principles of security, yield and liquidity while giving attention to the human aspects of development. Funds from the scheme's reserves will be invested in the housing mortgage industry and the construction of health care facilities in Family Islands thereby forging a link between the scheme, its contributors and the wider community.

Department Of Social Services

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Social Services was established in 1964 following the introduction of ministerial government to the Bahamas. This department will therefore be celebrating the 20th anniversary of its existence next year. In order to mark this occasion, a special programme of activities will be organised.

During 1983, the public assistance programme for the old, disadvantaged, distressed and handicapped which was well organised in New Providence, was extended to the Family Islands. Public assistance includes foster care, food allowances, disability and unemployment and rental allowances, fire relief and other general allowances.

Consistent with the government's philosophy that the poor and disadvantaged throughout our society needs to be provided with a minimum level of material comfort and further that the assistance must be provided in a way which does not appear to compromise the dignity of the individual recipient, a decision was taken to abolish the so called pauper relief ration

programme in the Family Islands with effect from the 1st July, 1983. Substituted in its place was the same system of food voucher/coupons as is used in Nassau and which is now honoured by designated food stores throughout the Family Islands.

Mr. Speaker, consistent with the policy of the government to delegate authority to family islands communities with respect to various matters, public assistance advisory committees have been established in many of the islands to oversee and administer the programme.

Welfare Officers have been posted in Eleuthera, Exuma and Abaco. A Welfare Officer will be posted in Andros before the end of the year and to other Family Islands as the need arises.

In order to assist in cushioning the poor and disadvantaged against the impact of inflation, the following increases in public assistance allowances, have been approved and will take effect from the 1st January, 1984:

1. Foster Care Allowance which was instituted in response to the urgent need to provide a minimum amount of financial assistance in respect of children requiring care and who cannot be accommodated in one of the various Children Institute.

The present Grant of \$10.00 per week for children up to 13 years of age will be increased to \$14.00 per week. For children 13-18 years the grant will be increased from \$15.00 per week to \$21.00 per week. In addition such children will receive an annual clothing allowance of \$56.00.

Handicapped children will receive a weekly allowance of \$21.00 per week irrespective of age up to 18 years. Temporary Foster Care Parents will receive in addition to the Foster Care Allowance and basic essential furnishings required for the child a layette for each baby and permanent food vouchers of \$40.00 per month.

2. Fire-Relief is provided in emergency cases in respect of clothing, bedding and stoves.

3. Housing Repairs — Grants for indigent poor persons residing in owner-occupied

A total of 400 existing homes have now been improved since the housing rehabilitation programme began in 1981. Seventy-six per cent of such homes received sanitary facilities for the first time.

While encouraging this progress provides no ground for complacency. Too many people still live in poor conditions and housing remains a social and economic national priority of the highest order.

Since the influences on housing are many and varied we have chosen for the year ahead strategies which will attack the most pressing housing needs of individuals and families effectively and urgently.

Ownership

Home ownership gives a great sense of personal satisfaction and achievement to an individual family. Owning one's own home is one of the most highly prized values in our society. This is as true for the family at the bottom of the economic structure as it is for the family at the top.

The Government will therefore intensify its involvement in housing development in 1984 and encourage home ownership as a matter of public policy. All lots in the Yellow Elder Gardens subdivisions have been assigned and construction on the remaining ownership houses will be completed during the first half of 1984.

During 1984 new housing subdivisions will be commenced in Yamacraw, Baillou Hill, Carmichael, New Providence and Freeport, Grand Bahama.

Development of privately owned lots by low and moderate income Bahamians will be encouraged and facilitated to the maximum extent possible in New Providence, Grand Bahama and the remaining Family Islands in the ensuing months.

There is an urgent need to ensure that land is available to match our housing development needs.

Measures will be taken to simplify and reduce the costs associated with establishing good legal and marketable title to owner occupied housing premises.

Housing Incentives

1. As a means of supplementing conventionally constructed houses and increasing the supply of owner occupied housing accommodation the Government will permit the duty free importation by the Ministry of Housing of a reasonable number of factory produced houses.

2. In order to foster and revitalize our old and depressed communities in New Providence and the Family Islands and assisting low income persons with home ownership, the Government will provide cash grants of \$1,000 each to persons building new owner occupied housing accommodation in depressed areas.

It is hoped that through these efforts more than 200 Government built houses will be added to the housing stock in 1984.

Housing Rehabilitation

The Government realizes that all of our housing problems can not be solved by new construction alone and will therefore pursue carefully integrated programmes of new buildings and housing rehabilitation. The Government also accepts that many low income home owners have difficulty financing adequate repairs to their homes and upgrading of their properties and will continue with its housing rehabilitation programme in the year ahead through which soft loans are made available for home improvements.

Public Rental Housing

Because of income many persons are unable to afford to purchase their own homes.

Many many more are having to live in dilapidated rental housing accommodation.

In addition there is an absolute shortage of decent accommodation for low income persons in New Providence and Grand Bahama in particular.

It is the Government's firm and unshakeable belief that our public rental housing programme must be accelerated.

Additional family public rental units will therefore be constructed during 1984.

Senior Citizens

Housing Units

The Government's policy is to enable elderly people to remain in the community and to lead independent lives as long as possible. The first Senior Citizen's project in Lewis Street was recently hailed by a representative from an International Agency as a model for other nations. The Government proposes to bring the total of such units in New Providence and the Family Islands to 60 in the year ahead.

Consideration will be given to constructing a reasonable number of public rental units for disabled and handicapped persons.

While the impact of the above strategies on the Bahamian housing situation will be gradual, the government believes that the value of the efforts is greatly enhanced by their concentration on the areas of greatest need.

Housing Needs Study

Any successful national housing policy must take into account not only immediate housing demands but also the needs of the increasing population and households. Currently with our present housing activities we are conducting a detailed assessment of housing

Maritime Affairs

The Government will continue to promote the Bahamas to become one of the world's largest open registry. This is evident in the recent amendments to the Merchant Shipping Act to remove any would be obstacles to the registration of ships under the Bahamian Flag.

This year has been extremely successful for the registry of Bahamian shipping when one considers that at the end of 1982 there were 118 ships with a total of 599,454 gross tons flying the Bahamian flag while on the last day of September, 1983, there were 150 ships with a total of 2,460,917 gross tons on the Bahamian registry.

During 1983 an office was opened in New York to deal with the registry of ships, headed by a Deputy Director of Maritime Affairs and this is operating similar to the office in London, which of course has been in existence for several years.

All indications point to a steady growth in tonnage on the Bahamian registry.

Post Office Department

The Bahamas postal system is second to none in the region. However, steps will continue to be taken to upgrade the postal services in keeping with our objective to make it easier for our people to use our postal facilities.

The Bahamas Philatelic Bureau continues to be a sound revenue earner as we continue to create stamps to portray items of national significance and people of historical interest.

The Philatelic market, both locally and overseas has been overwhelmingly successful and the outlook for 1984 looks quite promising.

Road Traffic Department

An important survey was recently conducted by the Government in order to obtain the public's views on the omnibus transit system in New Providence. It is hoped that as a result of this survey, 1984 will see vast improvements in the quality of services, the organisation of the system and the institution of properly regulated schedules. The Road Traffic

Department will, through its team of supervisors, continue its vigilance in an effort to improve the conduct and attitude of public service drivers.

With the increasing amount of serious and fatal accidents on our streets, greater efforts will be made to improve safety standards and to alleviate congestion.

With the opening of the new Cable Beach Hotel/Casino complex in New Providence and other resort properties in New Providence and Grand Bahama, it is anticipated that tourist arrivals from abroad and traffic by sea and air to The Bahamas will be substantially increased during 1984. With this in mind, it is proposed to increase the quotas for various categories of public transport in order to accommodate the additional projected traffic.

Port Department

The Port Department will continue its efforts in the upgrading of local vessels.

Continued attention will be paid to the maintenance and modernization of navigation aids throughout the Bahamas. By the end of 1984, it is expected that all of the battery operated lights will be replaced by the more economical solar panel lights.

Civil Aviation Department

The outlook on the aviation scene is good. 1983 will see the best year in air arrivals and the forecast for 1984 looks even better. This additional traffic will cause some congestion at Nassau International Airport in terms of aircraft parking and passenger handling facilities. Consequently, as a matter of urgency, it will be necessary to expand the terminal facilities including the aircraft parking aprons at Nassau International Airport. This will be in keeping with the Government's continued policy to systematically develop and upgrade airports, not only in New Providence but throughout the Commonwealth.

Equipment for the installation of aircraft surveillance radar has begun to arrive and it is expected that the installation will be completed early in 1984.

Comprehensive training of air traffic controllers and radar electronics engineers has taken place by way of overseas training courses and the establishment of radar control will greatly enhance the safety of aircraft operating in Bahamian airspace.

The resurfacing of the main runway at Nassau International Airport has been completed at a cost of \$4.5 million and it is anticipated that other major works will be carried out to improve Nassau International Airport in 1984.

In the Family Islands, greater effort will be made to maintain proper airport facilities. Work has recently been completed on a new Airport for Acklins and Preliminary soil testing and surveys have taken place at the site for the new Airport at Moss Town, Exuma. It is expected that work on this new Airport, to serve the Island of Great Exuma, will commence in 1984 and when completed, the people of Exuma will benefit from a first class jet Airport.

Mr Speaker, we made great strides in promoting, facilitating, developing and providing decent shelter for needy Bahamians during the past year. In the area of ownership housing 158 houses were constructed in Yellow Elder in the first nine (9) months of 1983 and 50 more are now under construction. Ten (1) ownership houses were completed in the Grants Town Area and 22 others are currently in progress. Twenty-one (21) homes were erected on private lots under the Government's Mortgage Insurance Programme and 26 more are now underway. 38 ownership houses are presently under construction in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

In the area of public rental units 28 family units have now been completed in various areas in New Providence and an additional 28 units are under construction. This year the first senior citizens housing project of six efficiency units was completed and occupied and five (5) other projects consisting of 24 units are currently being erected.

be effected during 1984 by the provision of dogs, a surveillance camera, and security fencing. A new sewerage and cesspit system to serve all the institutions at Sandilands is envisaged.

The provision of plumbing in the East Wing and the provision of proper office accommodation are also slated for 1984.

Boy's And Girls' Industrial Schools

New Dormitories have been completed at both institutions. At the Girls' Industrial School the kitchen and dining hall will be upgraded, and a new building for offices, lounge, sick-bay, etc. will be constructed. Furniture will be provided for both new buildings.

Defence Force

The primary functions of the Defence Force are the prevention of drug smuggling, the prevention of poaching by foreign nationals, the curtailment of the influx of illegal immigrants, and the patrol and surveillance of the waters of the Bahamas. In order to facilitate the execution of these functions, the 1984 Defence budget provides primarily for expansion of the Defence Force fleet, the recruitment of additional manpower, the procurement of equipment and supplies, the increase in maritime patrol and most importantly, the continued work on the Coral Harbour Base Development project.

The construction of the Northgate Administration Building at Coral Harbour is near completion and the Government is committed to the further development of the Coral Harbour Base. Additionally, provisions are made to staff and refurbish the new Ministry of Defence headquarters located in the old Colonial Secretariat Building in Parliament Square.

Provisions have been made to purchase 90 foot sea craft for the purpose of replacing HMBS Flamingo, which members will recall, was destroyed by Cuban Military Aircraft in 1980, and the replacement of HMBS Acklins and San Salvador.

Provisions have also been made to facilitate the effective use of the two advance bases at Cay Sal and Buccaneer Point.

With the acquisition of additional craft there is a corresponding requirement for additional manpower, both at the marine and officer levels. Additionally provisions have been made for advance technical training for Bahamians, particularly in the field of engineering.

Bahamas Development Bank

On July 21, 1983 The Bahamas Development celebrated its fifth anniversary and during its five (5) years of operation it has become the "Pioneer in Development Financing in The Bahamas." During its initial five (5) years of existence, the Bank approved some \$10.75 million in loans and has created over eight hundred (800) jobs. The Bank has greatly assisted in the upgrading, expansion and modernization of the mailboat service, the construction of a moderate number of tourist rooms and facilities, the encouragement and establishment of a more dynamic manufacturing sector, the modernization and expansion of the national fishing fleet and thus increased poundage of fish harvested. In a nutshell, the Bank has assisted the Bahamian entrepreneur and small businessmen in getting a larger slice of the economic pie. The three (3) areas of fisheries, manufacturing, and transport combined have received the major portion of funding, accounting for approximately sixty-nine per cent (69%). Agriculture, tourism and service type enterprises account for the remaining thirty-one per cent (31%).

It should also be noted that after five (5) years of operation The Bahamas Development Bank is operating at a small profit.

Other services offered by the Bank to its customers include: Financial Consultancy, Assistance with setting up books of account, marine surveys, legal advice, certificates of

deposit, inexpensive loan/life insurance and general business advice.

The year 1983 will have been the most productive year of the Bank as some \$3.5 — \$4 million in loans would have been approved in that year alone resulting in the creation of approximately one hundred and fifty (150) new jobs.

During 1984 and in the future, the Bank intends to play an even greater role in the further expansion and development of the Bahamian economy. During the early part of 1984, the Bank in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government will activate a Small Fisheries Programme in order to assist the fisherman with little or no security and the young Fisherman who is starting out for the first time.

Plans are underway to establish a sub-office in Freeport in order to better service the needs of Grand Bahama and the Northern Bahamas.

In order to better serve all its customers and deliver its services more efficiently to the public, plans are now being implemented to establish a small research unit and the employment of electronic data processing equipment.

In order to facilitate the proposed expansion which will result in an increased loan portfolio, the resources of the Bahamas Development Bank will be increased when the second line of credit from the Caribbean Development Bank for \$3 million comes on steam in early 1984.

Negotiations are now in the final stages between the Bahamas Development Bank and the National Insurance Board for a line of credit for \$3.5 million. It is anticipated that this source of funding will also come on stream in early 1984. It is also envisaged that the Central Bank of The Bahamas will make available to the Bahamas Development Bank a line of credit for \$2½ million, as its initial contribution to the development process.

Youth Involvement in Community Development is another area of major concern. Not only is it important to reach our registered youth groups, but more important are the unattached youth, who are not a part of any structured group. Towards this end, special emphasis will be placed on an outreach programme designed to maintain our existing youth groups and to service the needs of our unattached youth. The Government will be considering the establishment of National Youth Clubs throughout the Bahamas which are intended to help young people with every day living problems and to help them acquire the skills through which they could create self-employment.

Sports

In 1984 major emphasis will be devoted to the area of Sports Administration and Management. In this regard a number of Seminars and Workshops will be promoted to assist Sports Personnel, coaches and managers. Particular emphasis will be directed at the Technical and specialized areas to expose key personnel to modern and meaningful methods and strategies.

The government will continue to promote a number of programmes to foster community involvement in sports and recreation at all levels.

The government will continue to maintain and upgrade the facilities at the Queen Elizabeth Sports Centre to keep pace with the Rapid Development of Sports. National Sporting Associations will be encouraged to develop new sports facilities in cooperation and partnership with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Affairs.

A conscious effort will be made to upgrade a number of community recreational parks. A special programme will be promoted to foster proper use and care of these facilities which have been vandalized so much in the past.

Community Affairs

The Government will continue to ascertain facts, inform and educate all segments of our community and to assist in its development. The approach, therefore, is to identify needs, gather and disseminate the information, encourage dialogue

and follow through actions. It is therefore important that the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Affairs continues to focus on the theme: "Participation, Co-operation and Partnership" as a successful means to community development.

The Government's expressed philosophy of self-help, and the Prime Minister's call for a Social Revolution remain the ultimate focus of the Government. Towards this end, community development will be encouraged with the objective of improving the community's capacity to participate in integrated national development through self-help.

It is the Government's concern to restore our sense of values and priorities which have been lost in a flood of drug and alcohol abuse, crime and negative attitudes.

A diversification of programmes will aim specifically to inform and educate the Bahamian public on the Government's development priorities. Community forum meetings will be held throughout the Bahamas, and will focus on all aspects of community life.

Culture

With regard to cultural development, my Government remains committed to the following national cultural development programmes throughout the year 1984;

- (1) Junkanoo Development
- (2) Cultural Outreach Programmes including:
 - (A) Theatre-In-The-Park;
 - (B) National Youth Choir;
 - (C) National Children's Choir; and
 - (D) National Arts Festival.

In accordance with my Government's stated policy of expanding the present parameters of junkanoo development, a new junkanoo committee was appointed early in 1983. This committee was charged with responsibility for examining and exploiting the year-round potential of this national festival with a view to stimulating commercial and touristic returns for our musicians, artists, crafts persons and entertainment personnel throughout the year. It is expected that much of the

ground work and planning of 1983 will come to fruition in 1984.

Many of the cultural outreach programmes established in 1983 will receive top priority in 1984. The highly successful Theatre-In-The-Park productions instituted this year will continue to be presented in various community settings.

Other outreach cultural programmes under consideration are the national youth choir, the national children's choir, and the national arts festival.

With reference to training programmes in the arts, a programme of expansion for the National Dance School and the evaluation of the National Dance Company are foreshadowed.

For some time now, my Government has been concerned about the present condition of the Jumbey Village complex and a commitment to the renovation and restoration of this much needed facility has been made. In 1984 it is expected that the grounds will be transformed into a park and that repairs will be made to the existing art gallery and museum complex.

Police

It is considered that the present strength of the Force is inadequate to meet the increasing demands made daily on the Force, that during 1984 efforts will be made to strengthen the establishment of the Police Force and improve conditions and comfort of our officers.

The completion of the Cable Beach Hotel complex will necessitate the construction of a police and sub-fire station in the Cable Beach area, and the construction of another police and sub-fire station on Carmichael, to serve this densely populated area, is under consideration.

Prisons

An emergency generator will be provided to ensure that in the absence of power from the Bahamas Electricity Corporation, proper security lighting will be available. Two trade shops which would enable inmates to acquire meaningful job skills will be constructed.

Tighter security measures will

needs of today's youth;

- (2) The length of the training programme in nearly all of the courses to be offered will be increased from six months to a longer period to cover a more detailed work related curriculum;
- (3) A greater effort will be made and more emphasis placed towards a system of trade testing and certification of standards, the competency levels of which will be nationally and internationally recognised;
- (4) Greater emphasis will be placed on conducting courses to meet certain national manpower shortages, eg in the field of air-conditioning and refrigeration, by mounting courses designed to meet the specific demands of the market as well as the individual.

Since its inception in 1980, it was always envisaged that the industrial training scheme would be and to other islands and regions of the country. In fulfillment of this goal, I am pleased to announce, Mr Speaker, that plans have been approved for the implementation of this training scheme on Grand Bahama. Recruitment of trainees and equipment procurement have commenced and will be completed in the next few weeks in anticipation of commencing the programme from the 1st February, 1984. The programme will consist of an electrical installation work course for ten trainees at Hawksbill Senior High School and an automobile mechanics course also for ten trainees at Eight Mile Rock Senior High School. These courses are just the beginning with others being added as the year progresses.

Mr Speaker, while still on education I turn now to the College of The Bahamas. The College of the Bahamas has made considerable strides since its beginning in 1975. The Associate of Arts Diploma awarded by The College is now indeed, a reputable academic qualification which has achieved acceptability in our community by employers for employment purposes and by

institutions of higher learning abroad for matriculation purposes. A number of highly qualified entrants are seeking admission on an initial basis to the College of the Bahamas, fully confident that their qualifications on completion will be accepted by nearly all institutions of higher education abroad, including the University of the West Indies, our own regional University. In the case of the University of the West Indies, most faculties consider and evaluate Associate Degree Transcripts from the College of the Bahamas and equate some of these as being equal to work done in the University, including the faculties of Art and Science and Medicine. For those interested in pursuing traditional advanced level studies in the General Certificate of Education, the opportunity is also available at the College of the Bahamas where there has been a high degree of success in this regard.

Finally, as regards its physical facilities, members of this House will be pleased to know that construction is nearing an end on a totally new complex which when commissioned will provide additional new facilities at the Oakes Field Campus of the College. These buildings, including an extension to the library facilities, will be fully equipped with the latest state of the art equipment and furniture. The new facilities will allow increased student enrollment in the Arts, in Business Studies, in the division of technology and will also make provision for special facilities for the training of teachers of technical subjects in our educational system. We are satisfied, therefore, that the College is launched on a course which can only bring it further successful growth which will redound to the greater long term benefit of our educational superstructure and the country at large.

Mr Speaker, the success of our efforts to equip our people for the role which they must play in development of our country will depend on the continued commitment of the

government and teachers as partners in this great adventure. The government is committed and, I believe, the majority of teachers are dedicated to this task. Together we will give our country better builders in the years ahead.

Youth, Sports and Community Affairs

Youth

The Government will continue to fund methods of mobilizing the energies of our youth to the more productive process of economic, social, cultural, educational and civic responsibilities.

Through collaboration with the various registered youth groups and other Ministries, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Affairs will sponsor programmes and provide services under six major areas, Youth Employment, Youth Involvement In Community Development, Recreation and Leisure Development, Discipline Training And International Cooperation.

The youth employment and training programme is a key to our economic development. Programme areas to be included are a national youth awareness programme, the youth in business seminars, Youth Opportunities Fair, Operation Experience and The Junior Achievement Programme and informal workshop and courses at Youth centres. It is hoped that these programmes and services would enhance skills development in accordance with the national objectives.

A Mobile Community Education Unit will also assist our schools, churches and community groups in addressing issues and concerns that affect our youth population. Leadership development is of great importance as our Community Youth Groups need youth leadership training support. A National Youth Development Workshop will also take place involving youth leaders both in New Providence and the Family Islands. Successful Youth Development involves continuous dialogue and planning with those young people who are involved in this process.

rettes, beers, wines, spirits, oil, diesel, and gasoline. I have also taken the opportunity to clarify the position of certain satellite and video components. I propose to lay the orders on the table today. This increase in alcoholic beverages ought not affect the price now being charged particularly at the hotels. It is my hope that they do not price themselves out of the market but accept a slightly smaller profit for the benefit of all.

I propose to introduce legislation as soon as possible which will provide for small increases in stamp duties for court instruments and documents, certain commercial instruments, and modest increases and a sliding scale for leases. I also propose the introduction of legislation for small updated fees for births, death, marriages and copyright.

Measures will be introduced to provide for modest increases and the updating of tonnage rates and dues under the Harbour Dues Act 1954 which have remained the same for many years.

Finally, I propose to increase the insurance premium tax from 1% to 3%. I do not expect and will find unacceptable an across the board increase in insurance rates resulting from this increased tax. I will also be reluctant to regulate by law what can be better done by dialogue which has governed the good relationship that has existed between the Government and insurance companies in the past.

In this spirit the Government will, during the early part of 1984, initiate discussions with Resident Life and Other than Life Insurance Companies for the purpose of establishing an agreed time frame within which home office functions may be undertaken in The Bahamas.

Scores and possibly hundreds of jobs are created and maintained outside the Bahamas by multi-national insurance companies in respect of their Bahamian operations.

In the past two years approximately \$3 million Bahamian dollars were converted and

remitted to head offices outside The Bahamas in respect of the payments of salaries, rents, furniture, office supplies, auditors and legal fees, data processing, underwriting, computer, accounting and other administrative charges. These amounts are escalating and will approach \$4 million for this year.

Many additional white collar jobs may be directly created in the Bahamas if such services were required to be performed in the Bahamas.

The Government is approaching this matter in the spirit of co-operation which has existed between it and the insurance industry and look forward with confidence that reasonable proposals will be forthcoming from the industry without the need for any measures to be contemplated to effect this desirable and worthy national objective which is practiced by almost all countries in the world.

Mr Speaker, I have eliminated duties altogether on all baby formula.

I have reduced duties in television, radios, and pre-recorded gramophone records and tapes. These are outlined in the order that I will lay on the table today.

Mr Speaker, you will recall that I foreshadowed the introduction of certain updated health service fees. It is hoped that these will be introduced early in the New Year. I repeat the Government's position that those who cannot afford to pay will receive free health care but those who are able to pay will be required to make a reasonable contribution to the services which they receive.

Mr Speaker, these measures are modest and in some cases small and are expected to yield about \$20 million. As it was necessary to raise revenue to provide for growing demands, I have deliberately affected luxury items and those which will be borne mainly by those who are able to pay. I have also deliberately reduced customs duties on radios and televisions which ought to make those

items more accessible to all including those persons with lower incomes and the position taken on pre-recorded gramophone records and tapes is designed to assist local artists and their related industries and to reduce the cost of these items which are widely employed.

Capital Development 1984

Mr Speaker, the projected expenditure on capital account for the year 1984 is estimated at \$39,005,874 million. Some of this amount will be for the purpose of carrying on works that have already been com-

mitted. The major projects that would be undertaken are the continuing road surfacing programme in New Providence and the Family Islands, the expansion of the Nassau International Airport, the building of the airport at Exuma, additional craft for the Defence Force, advances and subsidies to Government Corporations, development of sub-divisions and industrial sites, the development of sports, various education related projects, the development of agriculture and fisheries, and the extension of our housing schemes.

There are other proposed projects which are listed in the estimates which I have already laid on the table.

Mr Speaker, this government has demonstrated over the years its ability to prudently guide the development of our country. Our approach has been sound. No attempt to raise revenue has ever been popular and any condemnation in the past and probably now will be inspired solely by narrow political opportunism. But those who have been mandated by our people cannot enjoy the luxury of irresponsibility and are in duty bound to do that which is right and just. We have always pursued the course which is right and just.

Mr Speaker, earlier in this Communication I outlined, in some detail, that the Government has stepped up its assistance to the poor and the unemployed. The noble and glorious task of rebuilding the physically depressed areas of

our country and the trust to house our people including the poor are matters to which the whole Government is committed.

The provision of suitable jobs for everyone is one of the Government's highest priorities; and indeed the Government has committed and re-committed itself to the total eradication of unemployment.

The expansion of the economy and the elimination of unemployment in the earliest possible time. The expansion of the economy and the elimination of unemployment go hand-in-hand. Although our strategy for development is now at a stage where much of it is being implemented, yet we would need the cooperation of all for its full implementation. Businesses have flourished in this country and men and women have had opportunities and some have reached great heights because we have laid the foundation, established a stable and democratic country and created conditions in which all these things may flourish. It is right and just and sensible that those who are able and willing to do so, take a step forward and co-operate with us in this great adventure if only to merely investigate and offer what they can do. Those who share a similar vision will come forward. We who are the representatives of the people have an even greater and higher duty — not only to help but to give service and sacrifice for the cause of the people. Those who

are inspired to serve will serve. Those who are more concerned with amassing wealth will not be useful builders for big talk of good intentions cannot help the building of the nation but will only distract those who are the builders. Those who are more concerned with political and economic power for themselves will shout and rave and even seek to distract while the building is going on for they are the enemies of the builders.

I invite businessmen and banks and insurance companies and all entrepreneurs and all others who are willing to enter into useful dialogue and deliberate action with the government that together we will not only be going in or pulling in the same direction but we will be building a place suited for all of us. I believe that is what we all want.

Mr Speaker, all I have said today and whatever many may say here either today or another time on these matters would be meaningless to those thousands of Bahamians who suffer, particularly those who suffer from sickness, want and unemployment. Some years ago I said that those who have and want more must wait till those who have none can get some. There were many who made fun of those words and did not want to wait. And yet they were the very ones who pledged service to the country and pledged they did loudly. But when all this rhetoric will have

been shown of all the grandeur of their covering garments, the naked truth is bare: the noble tenet that service to the Bahamas means service to the thousands of Bahamians who suffer.

Mr Speaker, may we remind ourselves that the decade of the 1970s had been the years of the political revolution when the status and hopes of our people were raised to great heights; when opportunities made men and women out of frightened children and when a people created a country for themselves. May we also remind ourselves that we wanted and sought the 1980s to be the years of reconstruction and the years of the social revolution, when we accepted the challenges that befooled us to a bold new frontier. I believe that some of us here in this sovereign Parliament representing the free and sovereign people of The Bahamas have accepted those challenges. These are the patriots and the builders of the nation.

To them I say, through good and ill fortune alike never lose sight of those noble ambitions or forget the ideals which inspired them and above all I know that you know The Bahamas is not the ugly thing conjured up in the minds of those who wish her ill but is the beautiful creation of all her loyal daughters and all her loyal sons.

HERALD PRINTS LETTER ATTACKING FNM POLICY TOWARD U.S.

Nassau THE HERALD in English 9 Dec 83 p 6

[Letter to the Editor]

[Text]

Dear Mr. Editor,

WHEN one reads the press releases by Mr. Kendal Isaacs, which is the official position of the Free National Movement, one cannot help but smile to oneself and think about the story in the Bible about Esau and Jacob. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a dish of pottage. All the intrigue and craftiness one finds in that story are all present in the FNM's press releases, especially those regarding the NBC allegations and the brutal and unnecessary invasion of Grenada by the United States.

WHEN one examines those press releases carefully, especially Mr. Isaacs' most recent remark about the interests of

The Bahamas being identical to those of the United States, it therefore comes as no surprise that the FNM took this position and that they could care less about the sovereignty of Grenada. But before going into the invasion of Grenada let us, for simplification, do an exercise in comparison to see how ridiculous that remark is.

THE UNITED STATES has had a very bloody and interesting history and has evolved to its present position as a result of its peculiar national goals. It has enjoyed its independence from Great Britain for more than 200 years and have, to a certain extent, done every-

thing to remove all the vestiges that would remind them that they were ever linked with Britain as a colony, including the altering of the English language and particularly the spelling. The Bahamas, when compared to the United States in national terms, is still an infant. That being so, how then can the interests of an industrialised, self-producing nuclear power such as the United States be identical to a developing, inter-dependent newly-created sovereign State? The United States is concentrating on nuclear supremacy, outer space exploration superiority and of late negotiating a new Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty with Russia. The Bahamas is not interested in any of these things, at least not to the extent that it is a national priority. How then, Mr. Isaacs, are the interests of The Bahamas identical to those of the United States?

WHEN one considers the superfluity of that party that particular remark surprises no one. It is also no surprise that the FNM has no regard or concern for the sovereignty of Grenada. No thought was ever given by the FNM to the inalienable rights of the Grenadian people to map out their destiny as they see fit as a sovereign state and a free people without any international and outside interference.

When you examine all the facts you cannot but conclude that the FNM does not yet fully recognise the sovereignty of The Bahamas, our Bahamian heritage and the status that these things bestow upon us as Bahamians. In fact they despise their Bahamian heritage and this is why the UBP/FNM never encouraged the recording of the history of these islands because the history was that of a Black people and their history and interests are recorded elsewhere. It was the UBP/FNM who did not want The Bahamas to be a sovereign state in the first place by severing its colonial ties with Britain. This being the case, what could one expect from the FNM when they rushed into print their glowing praises of the American invasion of Grenada? Do you not now see that the FNM is prepared to sell The Bahamas to foreign interest lock, stock and barrel for a perceived assurance of security?

IS it true that Mr. Isaacs and his crew despise their Bahamian birthright because they are scornful of their Bahamian heritage and are indifferent to the responsibilities that our sovereignty confers upon us? Why should we sacrifice our sovereignty for the momentary assurance of external security and economic stability. It is a tragedy that the so-called 'al-

ternative' to the great PLP Government is so careless of the future of The Bahamas and are living under the delusion that what they do today to bring down the Government will not be done to them in the future. They are so beguiled by the so-called goodness and generosity of the United States that they are sold on becoming an American colony, and they have become trivial of mind and empty of heart. Everyone knows that the American Government isn't going to do anything for anyone unless America comes out with the lion's share in the end.

According to the press it is claimed that some three million dollars will now be spent in Grenada as a result of the invasion and that this is an "aid" package. Is this what the FNM calls "foreign investment"? What can three million or thirty million dollars do when a country has been raped, its people stripped of its dignity and sovereignty; its people slaughtered and its national landmarks razed to the ground? What can three million dollars do in restoring the broken spirit of a people? Three million dollars is only tokenism, and that kind of patronising is not wanted or welcomed. No amount of money can justify the brutal force which was employed to supposedly "restore" peace and tranquility which has made young wives widows and parents childless, not to mention making children fatherless and orphans. Perhaps this was an opportunity for the war-mongers in the United States to show off their military might and to teach those West Indian "Niggers" to stay in their place and do it our way or else.

WHY didn't the United States storm Iran when its diplomatic personnel was held captives? The American students studying in Grenada were not in any danger. That did not invade Iran because they felt that the Islamic nations which make up OPEC would be outraged and cut off their oil supply. If America thinks she is the preserver of democracy in the world then why didn't she invade Afghanistan and kick the Russians out when Russia invaded that country a few years ago? Why didn't she rush into Poland to show off its military might when the Russians marched into that country to "restore peace and tranquillity". They didn't simply because it was not politically expedient and they would have met a formidable adversary in the Russians who would have resisted such an invasion. Americans must be told in clear and uncertain terms that the era of colonization is over and when a country asks for assistance they do not mean a full scale invasion.

CHECK out what American assistance amounts to. What has Haiti, Chile, Mexico and the other South American countries got to show for the "aid" they all received from the American Government. Why not take a good and hard look at South East Asia. Way back in the 1950s Vietnam asked the American Government for aid and assistance and look what it turned out to be — a full scale war and a complete takeover by the Americans. The FNM, The Bahamas' modern UBP's, is making a mad rush to bring back the days of UBP serfdom when the UBP Government had the Black people of this

country enslaved politically, socially and economically.

WHAT is America doing to bring about improved race relations within her borders? What is she doing to bridge the gap which separates Black America from White America? Why should we stake our future to a country which is racially divided? Have we forgotten Jim Crow and the many lynchings? What about all those Project stories involving Crackers? We are Bahamians, not Americans, and we who love The Bahamas do not want to be anything but Bahamian. We want to develop and cultivate a Bahamian identity not a prototype of any other culture or country. Did it not take the death of several American Presidents and several attempts on the lives of Presidents and the death of a Presidential nominee to bring about some kind of meaningful gun control laws in that country? Did it not take the death of the greatest modern civil rights leaders of that country to bring real social change and civil rights for Black people in America? What is it going to take the FNM and their puppets to realise and understand what the PLP Government is trying to do? When are they going to realise that the good thing they have enjoyed under the PLP Government is unsurpassed in our history and no one else can duplicate or come near that record. Wake up FNMs. You may oppose the Government, but be constructive. Issue sensible press releases and for God's sake stop wasting the people's money and time by playing fool.

Yours sincerely,
G. KNOWLES.

VANGUARD OFFICIAL ADDRESSES YOUTH FORUM ON VARIOUS ISSUES

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Dec 83 p 5

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Text]

"THE CRITICAL problems facing Bahamian youth under the PLP Government are a function of the existing capitalist patriarchy which plagues us with mass unemployment, poverty, crime, drugs, national disunity and mass alienation, destructive patriarchic capitalist values and the imminent threat of a nuclear holocaust."

Kay Saunders, of the Vanguard Nationalist and Socialist Party, addressed Bahamian Forum Wednesday afternoon on problems facing the youth of the Bahamas. Also making presentations were Tommy Turnquest, president of the Torchbearers (youth arm of the Free National Movement) and Durrell Shearer of Youth for Christ. A member of the PLP's Young Liberals was invited, but did not attend.

Said the young woman: "In this exploitive capitalist system where the bulk of the nation's wealth accrues to rich foreign investors and local elite, the youth are heaviest hit by the estimated 20 to 30% unemployment and augmenting poverty." She noted that 52% of the population is under 20 years of age.

"The most striking statistical findings show how this vicious capitalist patriarchy discriminates against women who occupy the most menial and

underpaid jobs while independently heading approximately 40% of the households."

The PLP regime, said the speaker, has "thrust the masses of Bahamians into the ravages of poverty." She said that Time magazine estimates 50% of the population to be malnourished.

"The bankrupt PLP Government which maintains our archaic, regressive tax system, perpetuates inadequate health care, housing and education while employing almost 60% of the labouring force. Government revenue stands at 273 million with a national debt of 447 million in 1982," Miss Saunders told listeners.

She noted that 58% of Bahamian households receive less than \$5,000 annually and 32% less than \$2,000. "Bahamas, under the neo-colonial Pindling regime, has developed one of the most unfair distributions of income in the world." She asserted that out of every \$100 earned, the lowest fifth receives \$2.90 while the highest fifth earns \$50.60.

"Crime infestation, the plague of capitalism which is inversely related to employment, is destroying the social fabric of our society," continued the speaker. "Bahamians should note that socialist countries have negligible amounts of crime due to the equitable distribution of wealth and full employment."

Under the sub-heading: "FNM/PLP socio-economic panacea," Miss Saunders said: "The FNM's line is a clever prevarication to depose the PLP Government and maintain confidence in the capitalist socio-economic structure."

"The PLP has long been actively courting foreign investment to exploit the labour power of Bahamians. Contrary to the illusion of the capitalist investment panacea of our socio-economic problems, the main problem is not lack of foreign investment but the capitalist economic structure with its unequal distribution of wealth, which perpetuates poverty and crime, permanent vestiges of capitalism."

"Primacy is always given to maximisation of profits not to economic and cultural needs of the masses and national developmental programmes," the speaker maintained.

She claimed the most developed, technologically advanced capitalist countries, with their abundance of resources and investment, cannot conquer crime, poverty and unemployment. "Therefore the claims by the FNM and PLP to rid this country of these problems are ridiculous and deceitful."

Miss Saunders said that as long as there are "fierce class antagonisms" there can be no national unity.

"The workers continue to

struggle against capitalist violence to alleviate economic exploitation in getting a modicum of dignity and self-respect. In the Bahamas this is evidenced by the expansion of the trade union movement to agitate for the workers, however the masses of workers have yet to realize that only they themselves can rule in their interest."

The Vanguard representative told Bahamian Forum that alienation is recognizable among the majority of Bahamians especially the youth, whom she described as directionless and apathetic.

"The masses are alienated from their work, social and political organizations because they are undemocratic and elitist. They play no leading role in the decision-making."

"As a consequence," she continued, "many persons have withdrawn into the mazy paths of escapism. The result is epidemic drug abuse, the anesthetization of the youth through music, television, from the violent oppression of this capitalist patriarchy, which is perceived as anarchy."

Many escapist youth, Miss Saunders claimed, drift among various religious denominations to find security and methods of coping with and understanding the capitalist world.

"Unlike progressive youth in countries like Canada and

Nicaragua, the majority of Bahamian youth suffer from political acquiescence, a symptom of mass alienation from our primitive bourgeois democratic machinery that does not allow any significant contribution by the masses other than during general elections. This backward institution encourages political apathy because an acquiescent population is easy to control."

The speaker said US imperialism, "in a desperate attempt to regain world hegemony, tries to strangle the world-wide struggle for national liberation by military intervention and invasion." Miss Saunders was speaking on the sub-topic of nuclear war.

She called the Soviet Union "the ally of the progressive forces" and said it grants military assistance for defence and armed struggle against imperialism. As a result, she said, "US imperialism" increases military assistance to "pro-imperialist" factions and augments military weaponry, "nuclear weaponry," to demonstrate superiority. This is a psychological threat to the Soviet Union and the progressive countries, the speaker continued.

"Consequently the Soviet Union is obligated to respond thus escalating the arms race."

The socialist solution, which the Vanguard endorses, Miss Saunders said, involves:

socialization of the means of production in major businesses; a planned economy to cater to the needs of the masses producing economic and cultural development; free health care; affordable housing; adequate education; and "the eradication of the plagues of capitalism, unemployment, crime, poverty."

The speaker said under socialist democracy "national concerns are debated and decided by the masses. Less important issues are decided by the socialist government, but their role is primarily administrative." Workers nominate, elect and recall from posts corrupt and incompetent leaders, she said.

"Bahamians, particularly the youth who represent the majority, would unite under the cooperative spirit of national reconstruction."

Ending her presentation, the young woman said: "The world will remain under the ominous threat of nuclear war until US imperialism accepts that they cannot change the course of history."

"The labouring masses in their quest for equality, a dignified way of life, justice, will struggle unceasingly until socialism is consolidated. Only then could peace be permanently achieved...The social problems facing the youth can only be permanently eradicated if the socialist revolution and reconstruction is consolidated."

CALL FOR END TO 'STATUS' for NON-BERMUDIANS IGNITES ROW

PLP Editor's Proposal

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

Bermudian status should be abolished and non-Bermudians prevented from putting down roots in Bermuda, says Mrs. Kathleen Bell, unsuccessful General Election candidate and editor of the PLP party newsletter.

Mrs. Bell argued at a forum held last night at the Leopard's Club in Hamilton that non-Bermudians are now creating more resentment than ever because they are taking jobs from all types of Bermudians.

"Bermudian status is held out like a carrot to foreign workers who come here," said Mrs. Bell. "You now see greater resentment towards them than ever because a wide cross-section of Bermudians are threatened by them."

Also speaking at the forum attended by about 50 people were the Hon. Sir John Sharpe, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, special educator Dr. Muriel Smith, and former MP Mr. Calvin Smith.

Mr. Smith argued that the issue today was not Bermudianisation, but black Bermudianisation. And he pointed out that there were just a handful of white people at last night's forum.

"Why are white Bermudians not here?" asked Mr. Smith. "Because they don't have any problems with Bermudianisation. White Bermudians have never had problems getting positions."

Sir John outlined Government's position on immigration and status. And he conceded: "There is a case for restricting Bermudian status further."

UBP Senator's Response

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 17 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

Senator Llewellyn Peniston launched a blistering attack yesterday on PLP newsletter editor Mrs. Kathleen Bell.

The UBP Senator accused her of attempting to mislead the public

with comments made on Thursday about Bermudian status.

Mrs. Bell said that status should be abolished and non-Bermudians prevented from putting down roots.

In the Senate yesterday Senator Peniston said: "I was astonished. This plea coming from Mrs. Bell is another classic example of the 'doublespeak' philosophy of the PLP in that she has attempted to mislead the public."

"In case it has been forgotten, let me remind this community Mrs. Bell, now a prominent PLP member, was formerly a prominent member of the UBP Under 40 Caucus until her very own English husband received his status, and then she resigned shortly after this was received from Immigration.

"To even imply parasitic tendencies on the part of our friends from overseas, who have often uprooted their families, and have given this community the best years of their lives with skills to assist in our

educational, commercial and cultural development, is absolutely ungracious and is symptomatic of why the people of this Island continue to reject the PLP as an alternative government."

He went on to say that some people deserved the opportunity to apply for permanent citizenship as Bermudians overseas might want to do.

"Mrs. Bell's husband is earning enough money in this Island to give her the luxury of not having to work

at all while most of the same Bermudians she is trying to fool are often working two or three jobs."

Senator David Allen (PLP) responded angrily calling Senator Peniston's statement "scurrilous and vitriolic".

"We believe that Mrs. Bell was perfectly within her rights and it is most unfortunate that Senator Peniston should lower standards in this chamber again by making an attack on someone who is not here to defend herself."

CSO: 3298/397

ANNUAL UBP GENERAL MEETING ELECTS NEW PARTY OFFICIALS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 9 Dec 83 p 7

[Text]

Businessman 39-year-old Mt. Robert (Skippy) Lewis yesterday became the new chairman of the United Bermuda Party.

Mr. Lewis takes over from Senator Paul Leseur who had been chairman for nearly two years. "It is traditional that the chairman serves for two terms and then makes way for some newer blood," said Senator Leseur.

Mr. Lewis is a former deputy chairman of the UBP and a former chairman of the UBP St. George's North branch. He is a partner in Independent Stevedores Limited which is bidding to provide service to Bermuda Container Lines on the Hamilton docks.

He was elected unopposed at yesterday afternoon's annual general meeting of the UBP.

Also unopposed were two deputy chairmen Mr.

McNeil Warner, principal of Robert Crawford School, and Miss Sharon Vesey, the granddaughter of Sir Henry Vesey and the niece of the Hon. Ernest Vesey, Minister of Legislative Affairs.

Mr. Warner was deputy chairman last year so he is serving a second term. Miss Vesey was formerly deputy chairman of the UBP's Hamilton West branch and played a prominent role in the party's successful election campaign there.

Mr. Altimont Roberts, the brother-in-law of the Premier, becomes UBP secretary and Mr. Edgar Wilkinson, treasurer.

All of the newly instated officers were put forward by the UBP's nominations committee which is appointed by the Premier. The party's constitution allows for other candidates to stand as well but none did.

The AGM was attended by some 70 members.

CSO: 3298/397

MP OFFERS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR WAYS TO CONTROL CRIME

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 20 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

Tough-talking MP Mr. Harry Viera yesterday proposed a package of what he called "ruthless and possibly Draconian measures" to control crime.

The former Cabinet Minister's declaration of war against crime included proposals to: ● Use Bermuda Regiment soldiers for patrols in tandem with the Police. "It doubles your muscle on the streets," said Mr. Viera; ● Arm Police with more sophisticated equipment including light sensitive binoculars for night time surveillance and tear gas in patrol cars; ● Increase use of dogs for Police patrols as well as sniffing out drugs; ● Boost Police established strength by an extra 40 men; ● Buy a helicopter to enable Police to monitor suspicious movements of boats approaching the Island. It could also be used for air-sea rescue as well as providing air surveillance over the Island when needed; ● Reexamine the criminal justice system and abolish juries for trials involving defendants accused of drug pushing; ●

Encourage Island-wide "good neighbour" groups following the initiative of Granaway Heights residents; ● Start intensive education programmes on drug abuse for young people; ● Implement intensive public education, to include businesses, on how to minimise opportunities for crime; ● Increase the use of "parish constables" — officers whose regular beat is in an area which they know well.

Said Mr. Viera: "The unacceptable increase in serious crime requires ruthless and possibly Draconian measures to bring this present miasma under control."

He accepted that the programme he suggested would be costly.

It was Government's duty to protect its citizens. "I'm not sure we are doing that," said Mr. Viera.

He estimated that crime added about 10 percent to the cost of living and that it was bound to affect tourism.

It was time that the leaders of the community including politicians, church leaders and educators let criminals know that "we mean business".

PLP HIT BY UBP OVER BUDGET, HOUSING ISSUES

'Ignorance' Charge

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 10 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

Finance Minister David Gibbons launched a blistering attack on the PLP yesterday, saying they were so ignorant on financial matters they were an embarrassment to the Country.

The controversy came during House of Assembly debate on a \$7 million bill for extra expenditure in the financial year 1981/82. Gibbons had no idea in his mind what expenditure for that year.

Mr. Gibbons Cox, the PLP's finance spokesman, said Government continually boasted of having balanced budgets. Yet every year it brought supplementary estimates totalling millions of dollars for unexpected spending.

"I submit we have never had a balanced budget for a number of years," he said.

Mr. Gilbert Darrell (PLP) said 1981/82 was supposed to have had a balanced budget, yet Government had spent \$7 million more than expected. How could it possibly be balanced.

Mr. Stanley Morton (PLP) said that such "irregularities" as the extra

money was contributing to the high cost of living in Bermuda.

Mr. Gibbons said that the figures given in the budget each year were an estimate of the coming year's spending. The true position for the end of the year was found in the Accountant General's audit.

"They may have missed this point," he said, gesturing to the PLP benches.

"Their questions about whether the budget is balanced shows a degree of ignorance which I find distressing. And it is one of the reasons why they are still over there in, thankfully, diminishing numbers.

"They are an embarrassment to the Country, for it to have such an ill-advised Opposition. They don't really understand what it is all about."

Ignoring Mr. Morton's cries of "You don't like coming under scrutiny", Mr. Gibbons continued his onslaught in top gear.

"They keep saying the budgets are not balanced, but they don't understand. The balance sheet, the bot-

tom line, is the Accountant General's final report.

"Those reports have been laid on every member's desk for the past decade. And in every one of those years they have turned out to be balanced.

"To listen to this ill-advised ignorance is embarrassing. The public deserves better."

Mr. Gibbons said that the supplementary estimates were nearly two years late in coming to the House because of two reasons. The assistant financial secretary responsible for revenue and expenditure, Mrs. Lucelle Cooke — a "singularly valuable civil servant" — had been ill for some time, and the job had not been dealt with in the usual time.

There had also been a technical problem involving student loans.

Mr. Cox said that if the Finance Ministry had been understaffed, it was the Minister's responsibility to have solved the problem.

"Even if it meant the Finance Minister sitting in the chair for a time to see that finances are properly looked after and kept up to date," he said.

Response to Budget Concerns

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Dec 83 p 5

[Text]

PLP suspicions that Government was spending more than it had budgeted for were dispelled in the House of Assembly on Friday when it was revealed that Government has actually been taking in more than it has spent.

In only one of the last eight years has Government ended the year with a deficit. And that was for just \$595,000.

The surplus in the other seven years has been put into the consolidated fund — the pool for all Government revenue — which now stands at \$21 million.

Queries about balanced budgets were raised in the House a week earlier by PLP members in discussion on the spending of several million dollars that had not been forecast in the annual budget. Some Opposition members said they could not understand how the budget could be balanced if there had been unexpected spending.

Finance Minister the Hon. David Gibbons ripped into them for their "ignorance" on financial matters, and on Friday backed his attack with a statement outlining the facts to refute the "ludicrous claim" that budgets had not been balanced.

"Although I have already drawn the attention of this House to the muddled thinking that lies behind these allegations, I would like to present today factual evidence which will repudiate once and for all these fallacies," he said.

He gave the end-of-year figures for every year since 1976. The consolidated fund of \$21 million would be reduced through the purchases of land at South Shore, Warwick, (\$3 million), and Outerlea (\$800,000).

"But the fact that a surplus exists at all bears eloquent testimony to the financial prudence followed by this Government."

Mr. Gibbons said the budget could be nothing more than a forecast of spending proposals for the year. During a year money would inevitably have to be spent on other matters that were not known when the budget was drawn up.

"In any Government these are a fact of life and I make no apology for them," he said.

"The record, however, speaks for itself. It must surely be clear, even to the slowest mind, that in an uncertain world supplementary estimates are an inevitable adjunct to our financial planning, and are in no sense incompatible with this Government's commitment to a philosophy of balanced budgets."

Objection to Housing Plan

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 17 Dec 83 p 4

[Excerpts] Government MPs unanimously rejected the Progressive Labour Party proposal to implement a housing initiative in efforts to accelerate housing development already in process. The proposal was defeated.

The proposal was introduced yesterday in the House of Assembly by Shadow Minister for Housing, Mr. Walter Brangman—a week after the PLP unveiled the initiative.

Mr. Brangman said the initiative was a sincere attempt to tackle the problems of the most needy.

The financial criteria for getting a Government prefab was an income of between \$1,000 and \$3,000 a month.

But the housing survey conducted by the PLP found that 21 percent of the heads of the household had incomes of about \$200 a week. A further 32 percent had incomes of about \$300.

"It leaves a number of people who don't fall within the criteria of the Housing Corporation and therefore some arrangements should be made for them," said Mr. Brangman.

The idea was to set up an emergency housing committee with a member seconded from the Housing Corporation, the Social Services Department and the Rent Commissioner's office.

It would handle emergency situations. The Housing Corporation would be left free to get on, uninterrupted, with its housing programme.

Landlords with unoccupied homes would be given incentives to put their empty units on the market for the use of people in desperate need.

The Hon. Quinton Edness, Minister of Works and Housing, said that the type of committee being proposed was already in existence.

"I don't want Government to be accused of the old statement that we never listen and would not accept it simply because the Opposition is presenting it," said Mr. Edness.

"We are not refusing this motion simply for the sake of refusing it. It is being turned down on merit, the merit of what already exists."

There is already a social worker in the Housing Corporation. The Director of Social Services is a member of the board.

In fact, the only person suggested by the PLP who does not serve the Housing Corporation is someone from the Rent Commissioner's office because it was not believed it would serve any useful purpose.

"There is a committee which exists and does nothing else than what the honourable member suggests." It goes out and checks the living conditions of applicants to the Housing Corporation.

CSO: 3298/397

BRIEFS

PLP BROADCAST PLANS--Bermuda's Progressive Labour Party plans a venture into radio broadcasting next week. The PLP, which already has its own "PLP Magazine" programme aired monthly on television, is staging a panel talk on ZBM 2 Radio on Wednesday dealing with issues raised during a speech by Dr. Wilfred David at the party's recent annual banquet. PLP spokesman Senator David Allen said the Party was so impressed with the address by Dr. David, a Howard University professor and distinguished economist, and the public response to it, that a two-hour radio special would be devoted to a panel discussion on the speech and its implications. The programme, entitled "PLP Discussion Point", will be aired on Wednesday, December 14, on ZMB 2 at 8.10 p.m. Taking part will be Mr. Eugene Cox MP, Shadow Minister of Finance, Mr. Frederick Wade MP, Shadow Minister of Labour and Home Affairs and former PLP MP and Government statistician Mr. Calvin Smith. "Discussion of the points made by Professor Davis and the implications for Bermuda and its economy will be interspersed with re-broadcasted excerpts of the address to the banquet," Senator Allen said. He added that the next "PLP Magazine" programme on December 28, would deal with the topic of sport in Bermuda. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 9 Dec 83 p 6]

BANK PROFITS PICTURE--The Bermuda Provident Bank has reported a sharp drop in earnings as profits plunge 42 percent after steady gains over the last few years. This fall in profits of the Island's smallest and newest bank follows a small drop in Bank of Butterfield's 1983 profits and a slower rate of growth in the Bank of Bermuda's earnings. But Provident directors say they consider the result "fair, bearing in mind the market forces". They blame the fall on lower international interest rates. But they point to a significant achievement: "In this world financial climate, Bermuda has been able to maintain a reasonably high level of economic activity." Directors also noted that the present rate of inflation of 5.7 percent indicated a decrease of 1.3 percent during the year. Provident shareholders meet today for the 14th annual general meeting when consideration is to be given to changing the bank's name. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 15 Dec 83 p 1]

INFLATION RATE DECLINE--The annual inflation rate fell from 5.7 to 5.6 percent during the 12 months ending September this year. Government statistics published yesterday show that the cost of personal health and care rose most steeply, by almost 12 percent, with tobacco and liquor rising by 11.3

percent. Food rose by 4.3 percent over the year while rent went up by just over six percent. The monthly increase in October was 0.5 percent as the index rose from 169.3 to 170.1. In October food prices rose by 0.6 percent, rent by 0.5, clothing and footwear by 0.5, fuel and power by 1.1, household appliances and services by 0.4, transport and vehicles by 0.2, education recreation and reading, by 0.5 and health and personal care by 0.6. Tobacco and liquor showed no change. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 6 Dec 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/398

ASSIGNMENT OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ANNOUNCED

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 17 Dec 83 pp 3, 9

[Given under the Hand of His Excellency, Governor D. R. Barwick at Tortola on 25th day of November, 1983]

[Text] Subjects and Responsibilities assigned to The Honourable Cyril Brantford Romney, Chief Minister

Schedule Subjects

Development Aid; Development Planning, Economic Planning, Government Information Services; Immigration; Industrial Incentives; Industry; Industrial Development; Investment Promotion; Information (including Broadcasting Media & Press); Metrification; Regional Affairs; Standardisation; Statistics; Trade; Tourism; Weights and Measures; Accountancy; Banking (including Development Bank); Budget, Companies; Currency; Customs & Excise; Finance; Inland Revenue; Insurance; Internal Audit; Licences & Fees; Postal & Philatelic Services; Social Security; Taxation; Tenders; Trust.

Subjects and Responsibilities assigned to The Honourable Willard Wheatley (MBE), Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Health, Education and Welfare

Schedule Subjects

Censorship; Charities; Cinemas, Cemeteries; Community Development; Culture; Education; Environmental Health; Historical Sites and Monuments; Hospital Administration; Manpower Planning (including training and scholarships other than Civil Service training); Medical Services; Mental Health; Museums; Prisons; Probation; Public Health; Public Libraries; Social Welfare; Sport; Universities; Youth.

Subjects and Responsibilities assigned to The Honorable Conrad Maduro, Minister, Natural Resources & Labour

Schedule Subjects

Agriculture; Coastal Zone Management; Cooperatives; Crown Lands (including seabed) Administration (except Wickhams Cay); Fisheries; Forestry; Geology; Housing; Labour; Land Policy; Land Registration; Minerals & Mining; National Parks & Marine Parks; Nature Conservation; Survey; Veterinary.

Subjects and Responsibilities assigned to The Honorable Elliot Walwyn Brewley,
Minister, Communication & Works

Schedule Subjects

Building Standards; Civil Aviation; Electricity; Explosives; Marine Transport;
Meteorology; Ports & Harbours; Public Works; Roads; Telecommunications (exclud-
ing Broadcasting Media); Transportation & Traffic; Water & Sewerage; Wrecks.

CSO: 3298/387

NEW LEADERS ADDRESS FIRST SESSION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Romney Resolutions

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 24 Dec 83 pp 1, 16, 17, 19

[Excerpts] The 10th Legislative Council held their first sitting on Tuesday of this week (20th December, 1983), and was conducted with pride and dignity becoming its august body. All members of the newly elected Legislature were present. Friendliness and decorum on both sides of the House were notable throughout the proceedings.

In the first order of business--the election of a Speaker--there were two candidates proposed. The Government, by motion made by the Chief Minister and duly seconded, the name of Mr Keith Flax was placed in nomination, and from the Opposition Hon. H.L. Stoutt and duly seconded. Ballotting was secret. In the results, Mr Flax received seven votes and Mr Dawson three votes. It appears that the Opposition, consisting of four members casted a split vote, as Mr Dawson received only three votes, thereby giving Mr Frazer 7 votes rather than the six which the Government was sure to provide. Since the ballotting had been secret, no one can say for sure which member of the Opposition bolted.

Upon his election as Speaker, Mr Flax received the Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen.

Hon. Earl Frazer was then nominated by the Chief Minister and duly seconded. There was no other candidate, and Mr Frazer was elected by voice vote, and was sworn in. [Three paragraphs above as published.]

Following the reconvening of the Legislative Council after lunch recess, the Minister of Finance, Hon. C. B. Romney introduced a number of Financial Resolutions, which called for appropriation of \$5,800,000 withdrawal from the Consolidate Fund for operating Budget up to April, 1984; 200,000 for Capital project from local resources; the sum of \$153,112, charged against the Consolidate Fund; \$92,634 to be charged against the Capital Fund; and \$14,000 to be charged against the Consolidate Fund for operating expenses--1983. After discussions in Committee of the Whole, the Resolutions were passed.

The first sitting of the 10th Legislative Council commenced with friendly attitudes and ended with notable harmony.

New Speaker's Address

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 24 Dec 83 pp 15, 17

[Speech by Honorable Keith Flax, new speaker of the House]

[Text] Salutation:

This moment is History. It signals a change in tradition and a victory for young men and women of this territory. My appointment to this honourable position should serve as a source of inspiration to all young people that they should strive even harder for greater ideals knowing that the sky is the limit. It is very difficult to explain what I feel at this time, but to say that I feel honoured.

We must not fail to sometimes address ourselves to the past struggles of our forefathers for civil rights which embody much of our hopes for a future in which equal opportunity for all British Virgin Islanders, young and old alike is woven into the framework of our society.

Let me assure honourable members that I shall do everything possible to maintain the honor and dignity of this honourable house and to conduct the affairs with total impartiality at all times, and I look forward for the full support of all members to conduct themselves in accordance with standing Rules and Orders.

To the members entrusted with the daily job of running the Government, I say the task ahead is great, expectations are high, and confidence in your ability is overwhelming; you should therefore utilise time as a tool and not as a couch.

The Legislature is so structured that it will be extremely difficult for Government to do anything that is not in the country's best interest. That is not to say that the opposition should criticize for criticism sake.

To my critics who may have had or still have reservations regarding my ability because of my age, let me say that I intend to prove them wrong by conducting the sessions of the council in a manner equal to or better than my knowledgeable predecessor. This, however, can only be accomplished with time and practice. I could not end without having paid tribute to the Hon. Ivan Dawson, former Speaker of the House, a gentleman I have known, admired and respected for many years. I regard him as a model citizen.

In order for our country to advance politically and otherwise, our people must accept the fact that we live in fast changing times wherein tradition is no longer accepted as a standard. Let us join forces in making the task easy for a Government the people have chosen, and so to paraphrase the words of Sir Winston Churchill--that Great British Statesman--"The greatest investment that any country can make is to put milk into babies"; Let us therefore nourish and educate our youth who will be the Legislators of tomorrow to foster the advancement and welfare of our British Virgin Islands.

CSO: 3298/387

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, PROBLEMS OF HAVANA CITY REVIEWED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30 Nov; 1, 2, 5 Dec 83

[Articles by Susana Lee]

[Part 1: "General Repair, Renovation" 24 Nov 83 p 3]

[Text] The City of Havana has a territorial area of 727.8 square kilometers (0.65 percent of the area of the country) and as of 31 December 1982 the population came to 1,940,800 (19.9 percent of the national total), yielding a population density of 2,652.6 inhabitants per square kilometer.

Its territory is divided into five municipalities: Plaza de la Revolucion, Cerro, Centro Habana, La Habana Vieja, Diez de Octubre, Marianao, Playa, La Lisa, La Habana del Este, Regla, Guanabacoa, San Miguel del Padron, Cotorro, Arroyo Naranjo and Boyeros. They contain 930 districts and 1,384,804 voters.

According to figures as of the end of 1982, its mercantile production accounted for 34.8 percent of the total for the country, with an employed work force totaling 663,200 persons. Of these, more than 276,000 were workers directly involved in production and 155,000 were technicians.

There are 551 enterprises and 428 budget-supported units in the territory.

Some of the Main Problems

In the course of a meeting held on 20 October 1982 by the Council of State, with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro presiding, some of the main problems of the capital city were analyzed. They included construction, repair and maintenance of housing, remodeling of the city, street repair, public health and medical training projects, rehabilitation and expansion of the water supply and sewage networks, drainage work, correction of river and stream beds, and the studies being made for the building of the urban subway.

This analysis resulted in the adoption of a stock plan for 1983 expenditures totaling 158,100,000 pesos (60,800,000 more than utilized in these activities during 1982), and although at the end of the first half of this year, there were lags in the scheduled fulfillment, with the exception of the street repair program, it is equally true that quantitative changes in each of these sectors can now be seen.

To give some idea of this, what was done during the first half of this year exceeded the achievement for the comparable period in 1982 by 16.7 million pesos, which reveals the effort put forth by the workers at the enterprises of the People's Government and the MICONS [Ministry of Construction] involved in these tasks.

To expand on this theme, we will cite some of the examples which best illustrate how much has been done in this connection.

In the repair and maintenance of housing units (of the 526,005 in the city, some 300,000 need repairs to varying extents), something more than 39.5 million pesos was invested between 1977 and 1982. The allocation for this year was 20 million pesos, a figure which will increase annually, reaching 100 million in 1990. In the first 6 months of 1983, 10,429 housing units were repaired, 171 of them being totally remodeled.

Along with this effort made by the provincial and municipal People's Government enterprises, 22.1 million pesos' worth of construction materials were allocated for sale to the people (which will be increased gradually to a total of 50 million in 1990), with a view to having the citizens themselves do repairs and maintenance. Sales in the first half of this year exceeded those in the comparable period in 1982 by 2.6 million pesos, representing the purchase of materials by this means by 68,108 families.

With regard to housing construction, a problem which it will take long years to resolve, it was decided to build 224,000 units in the period between 1983 and 2000 to replace those which have deteriorated beyond repair, and to meet the current deficit and cover estimated population growth. Work is being done along these lines by the MICONS on the expansion of the material, technical and labor base required by this program, and it was decided to undertake the renovation of the city. This entails allocating 45,000 of the total number of high-rise units to be built to the municipalities of Cerro, Centro Habana and La Habana Vieja.

As of 30 June of this year, 28 percent of this program had been executed, with 1,231 housing units completed and more than 10,000 under construction. The latter included four high-rise buildings (of the 16 agreed upon in principle to rebuild the neighborhoods where housing will be demolished within the framework of the renovation program). In addition, the planning work for five blocks in Cayo Hueso, which will be a model zone in the renovation program, was completed.

Street Repair and Other Work

A clear picture of what the situation was will be obtained if we contemplate the 2,175 kilometers of urban streets in the city (some 20 million square meters of pavement) needing constant maintenance, as well as the homes of the residents of the capital themselves, to whom it is no secret that until a little more than a year ago, the rate of street and pothole repair was not keeping pace with the steady deterioration of the streets. Much has been done in this connection, and although it is still inadequate, the change can be seen.

First there was the 75-day plan at the end of 1982, which made it possible to put urban bus routes back in operation along streets which had had to be closed. Then there were programs totaling 30 million pesos annually dedicated to this task for this year and the next 2 to come to be maintained. A total of 16 People's Government enterprises and three under the MICONS are working to fulfill them.

Nonetheless quality problems continue, both in street repair and in the repair and maintenance of housing units. They are the focus of continuing analysis by the construction bodies and the investors.

As a part of this program, work has been done on the correction of the courses of the Luyano, Orengo, Martin Perez, Cojimar and Pastrana rivers, and this work has been begun on the Almendares, as well as on the drainage systems for the Los Cocos and Adelaida subdivisions and the master drainage network for La Lisa and Avenida Boyeros and Van Troi, thus resolving the traditional problems posed by the floods occurring in these zones.

With regard to the other water management projects established for rehabilitating and expanding the water supply, sewage and rain drainage networks, there are substantial lags resulting mainly from limitations of a material nature. Work has also been done on the search for solutions to the material problems posed by the elimination of leakage.

The program of projects for health and medical training, which includes new buildings and the expansion of numerous facilities for medical aid, teaching and research and for the pharmaceutical industry, comes to a total of 23 million pesos this year, involving 52 investments.

Concerning the subway, the study of the plan for resolving the city's mass transit problem has been completed. It entails integration of the bus and subway and urban railroad services, and work is being done on the plans for the first 20 kilometers of subway lines which will link the center of the capital city with the eastern areas.

[Part 2: "Economy" 25 Nov 83 p 3]

[Excerpts] The discussion of the economic tasks in the territory of the City of Havana in just a few pages is little short of impossible. However, we will try to point out the most significant achievements in order to provide a summary picture of what has been done.

Between 1977 and 1982, an average annual increase in production levels of 7.2 percent was achieved. There was a 6.5 percent increase in the first half of 1983 over the comparable period the preceding year.

Sales by the trade sector, productivity per worker, the average wage, production and delivery of articles and other production for export, the work force employed and the incorporation of women in labor activities (they now represent 44 percent of the total), and monetary savings by the people (as of 30 June, there were almost 468,000 open accounts totaling 333 million pesos), to

mention only a few indicators, showed a substantial increase for the period analyzed.

As a result of the implementation of the program of measures adopted on the basis of the resolution of the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee of the party, the first half of this year saw the following: savings of 40,000 megawatt hours in the energy sector, and more than 13,000 tons of oil. The raw materials recovery plan for this phase was 105 percent fulfilled, and 62 million pesos worth of replacement parts were produced. In addition, materials worth another 22 million were recovered. The hundreds of innovators and rationalizers in the province played an important role in this latter connection.

Almost 4 Billion in Investments

The province implemented a vast investment program between 1977 and 1982 coming to a total of 3,949,700,000 pesos, with the completion of 46 major units, among others. The following stand out: the second stage of Antillana Steel, the Telva Towel Factory, the semisynthetic antibiotics plant, the Dairy Complex, the Marianao oxygen plants, the facilities for 12 X 38 tires, tire recapping, rubber industrial and other products.

Work has been done during this phase on the execution of other large-scale projects which are to be completed in the coming years. They include the factory for construction tools, the aluminum construction shop, the central repair workshop for the electrical industry, the Wajay spinning mill, four mooring facilities in the port of Havana and the container base.

Some National Activities

By way of example only, we have chosen three projects in the territory under national jurisdiction, which complement the economic results for this period in the province.

In the farm sector, there are enterprises for the production of meat and milk, and projects for the cultivation of various crops, poultry production and forest replanting. A number of advances have been seen. Milk production increased from 25 million liters in 1977 to 36.5 million in 1982, with an average daily production of 100,000 liters. There have been increases in the deliveries from the dairy industry, and in the production of meat, vegetables, citrus and other fruits, eggs and poultry meat. A major effort has been invested in the recovery of land for use in raising vegetables and the building of hydroponic facilities, which now include 29.5 units (26 in production).

Numerous investments made or in progress in the electric industry have made it possible to improve the critical situation which occurred in the sector in 1980 substantially. The projects undertaken have benefitted thousands of consumers in the Vedado, Nuevo Vedado, La Habana del Este, Guanabacoa, Regla, Centro Habana, La Habana Vieja and Cerro districts, in the Altahabana hospital zones, the Diez de Octubre industrial facilities and the new micro-

brigade building. The existing lighting system has been overhauled, with improvements in the illumination level on the main avenues in the capital with the gradual replacement of incandescent lamps with the mercury and sodium types.

Where city bus service is concerned, a sharp decline in service was seen between 1977 and 1979. On the basis of the measures adopted in accordance with a resolution of the Political Bureau and the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, progress was achieved and this service began to be provided between 1980 and 1981, reaching levels of 26,400 and 28,500 average trips per day respectively for those years.

However, a new decline was seen in 1982 as a result of the accelerated deterioration of the Giron XII (Pegasus) buses, which developed cracks in the chassis and other coachwork defects. Improvement in this situation began to be achieved this year, when the replacement of these vehicles with the Giron XIII (Icarus) model began.

Another series of difficulties and shortcomings of an objective and subjective nature developed in this sector, and work is being done on their gradual solution by means of measures such as the decision to use new forms of wages for platform and workshop personnel, the construction of three new bases and the remodeling and expansion of another 14 in the next 2 years, and the replacement between now and 1985 of the entire existing fleet, to make one single model, the Giron XIII, standard.

[Part 3: "Health, Education" 26 Nov 83 p 3]

[Excerpt] Like the indicators for the overall economy of the City of Havana, the purely local ones, that is to say those coming under the jurisdiction of the provincial and municipal organs of People's Government, also showed increases for the period between 1977 and 1982, both in the productive sector and in the trade and nonproductive sectors, with the most significant increases seen in local industries and construction.

The increase in goods production during 1982 was 33 percent as compared with the 1979 level, while average productivity per worker was up 22 percent for the same period.

Where the budget assigned for local projects is concerned, the total more than doubled between 1977 and 1982, with 68 percent being allocated to the health and education sectors, followed in order by allocations for housing and communal services.

Health

As in the rest of the country, public health is one of the sectors in the City of Havana where the greatest achievements have been seen in recent years. Obviously, this is the result of the policy for this sector established by the revolution beginning with the Moncada program itself, which was implemented beginning in 1959.

Virtually all of the indicators measuring the health situation of the population show positive balances in a comparison between the years 1979 and 1982. Some of these indices show increases, as is the case with the units providing service, the number of hospital beds, the number of doctors, dentists, nurses and other technicians (at present there is one doctor for every 347 inhabitants, a dentist for every 2,043, and 8.6 hospital beds per thousand inhabitants), while others show substantial rate declines, as is the case with infant mortality, which dropped from 21.2 per thousand live births in 1977 to 14.3 in 1982. Also the incidence of numerous diseases declined.

As is known, epidemics of dengue fever occurred during this period, one in 1977 and another in 1981, and the other main epidemiological problems developing during this stage (not only in this province, but throughout the nation) included meningococcosis and epidemic hemorrhagic conjunctivitis.

In recent years, the campaign to eradicate the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito has been reorganized. This contributed to the reduction of the index of infestation by this vector to below 0.02 percent, and a campaign to eradicate rats has been pursued, among a number of other programs in the hygiene sector.

Advances were also reported in medical teaching, reflected in the graduation of 2,129 specialists, 3,568 middle-level technicians and 2,480 nurses, and in the commissioning of the Ameijeiras Brothers Clinical-Surgical Hospital and the Pediatric Hospital in the Jose Marti Pioneer City, as well as 10 polyclinics, 18 clinics and three dental clinics, a blood bank, four pharmacies, three optical offices, a home for the disabled, 11 intensive pediatric therapy units, a neonatal unit, a hemodialysis department and others for neurology and multiple infant trauma.

A major complement to the work done in this sector is the program for optimizing departments, resulting, among other advances, in a drop in the percentage of clinical records misplaced, shorter lists of patients awaiting surgery, and a decreased number of consultations postponed. However, some difficulties and shortcomings resulting in poor treatment of the public and critical situations for the population still exist. The administrative, trade union and political officials in the units, municipalities and provinces are working on these aspects in order to achieve the gradual elimination of the causes.

The City of Havana currently has more than 600 units, employing 55,635 workers, including 5,554 doctors, 923 dentists, 8,764 nurses and 8,297 technicians. Of this total, 951 comrades are currently carrying out internationalist missions.

Education

The comparative results for the last 7 school years provide a picture of what has been achieved in this field. There has been an increase in enrollment in all types of educational institutions: 90 percent for all of the primary school centers offering double session, and more than 27,000 new places have been provided in semiboarding facilities and 10,000 in children's nurseries.

The school enrollment for the age group between 6 and 12 is now 98.4 percent, and the figure for ages 13 to 16 is 91.3 percent. The dropout rate has been reduced, with a larger number of passing students, for the majority of the types and levels of education. The greatest effort is being focused on secondary education, where the greatest number of problems existed. A total of 825,242 students in the final grades were graduated, while the general level of schooling completed by the population between 6 and 49 years of age averages 8.3 years.

At the end of the 1982-83 school year, the province had 1,435 educational institutions employing 63,711 workers, 43,031 of them teaching personnel, and an enrollment of 536,702 students, almost a fifth of the national total. Of these, 35,601 were boarding pupils and 176,469 semi-boarding pupils.

Other achievements seen in this sector in the period since the establishment of the Organs of People's Governments include the active and enthusiastic participation of the students in the farm school program, the strengthening of school discipline, the transfer of more than 8,000 pre-university students to the pre-university farm schools, the introduction, on an experimental basis, of double sessions in basic urban schools (8,000 students in 11 schools during this school year), the completion of multiple tasks designed to strengthen the example set by teachers and professors, the strengthening of patriotic-military education, the constant rise in the professional level of teaching personnel, the perfecting of methodological work and the inspection and consolidation of school organization, among others.

Despite certain limitations of a material nature existing during this period, it is nonetheless true that the material conditions for the teaching-learning process have improved, based on the gradual increase of the budget allocations for this purpose, an eternal concomitant to the constant and daily struggle for the most rational possible use of resources and the strictest policy of savings.

[Part 4: "Housing" 28 Nov 83 p 4]

[Excerpt] More Than 22,000 Housing Units Built

The difficult housing situation in the city is a secret to no one (and it is known that this is among the main problems in all countries of the world). On the one hand there is the speedy deterioration of the existing housing base. In the capital, 57 percent of the 526,005 units counted in the most recent census are in regular or poor condition, while on the other, the population is increasing (140,000 additional residents in the past 10 years), to which must be added the fact that in the first stage of the revolutionary process, the major investment priorities were for industrial and farm development. These aspects give an overall view of the state of housing here.

Although the efforts made since the establishment of the People's Government have been considerable, they have not been enough to meet the increasing needs of the population in the capital. The 22,554 housing units built during the period during 1977 and 1982 (plus the 1,231 completed in the first half of this year) are few, if compared with the great demand.

Similarly, the more than 39 million pesos invested in the housing repair and maintenance phase and the more than 42 million pesos in materials sold to people so that they could carry out these tasks themselves were also insufficient.

Therefore, as we said in an earlier article, a systematic program including priorities to deal with these problems was approved at the end of 1982, for the purpose of gradually resolving them. Thus, as we have noted, plans call for the building of 224,000 housing units in the capital between now and the year 2000, and substantial and gradual increases in resources for the repair and maintenance work by People's Government enterprises and in the commercial funds for the sale of materials to the people are planned.

Other difficulties, such as those pertaining to the maintenance of apartment buildings (the city has 24,236 of these structures, with 263,631 apartments and housing units accommodating almost a million persons) are to be found in this sector of the work by the People's Government in the capital. The problems involved in this service, from maintenance and construction repair to breakdowns of elevators, water pumps and other equipment which has been in use for years, and also due to the shortage of replacement and other parts, are varied, and have become more aggravated with every passing year.

In terms of the overall conditions and potential in the province, some steps have been taken, such as the creation of minor maintenance brigades in each municipality, to take care of a series of basic tasks involved in caring for buildings and complexes, with a view to somewhat alleviating this increasingly tense situation. It will require the allocation of major resources in the immediate future, to make it possible to proceed gradually to correct it.

Note: It will be recalled that these materials constitute the basis for the meetings to be held between 6 and 15 December by the representatives and their voters, in order to hear their views on the main aspects of the Accounting Report of the City of Havana to the National Assembly.

[Part 5: "Sewer, Water Services" 29 Nov 83 p 3]

[Text] To paint a rough picture of the facilities the City of Havana has for water supply, sewage and rain drainage, mention can be made of an underground network some 4,240 kilometers long, with 200 technological pumping installations (supply sources, stations and plants) and several hundred thousand mechanisms. Some 620 million cubic meters of water are pumped annually, representing 1.7 million cubic meters per day, and an average flow of 20 cubic meters per second.

But this would not suffice. One would have to add also that despite this great volume, the age and poor technical condition of a large part of this equipment and these installations and the urban development of the capital city itself are such that these levels are inadequate to provide a proper guarantee of service to the population and to keep up with the socioeconomic plans established for the city.

If the economic indicators for these tasks are analyzed, we see that they show favorable results, with an average annual increase in the past 7 years of 1.30, while productivity has doubled.

Among the most important projects during this period were the new Palatino pumping station to supply the municipalities in the east, a number of supply lines and tanks, rehabilitation of 497.5 kilometers of distribution network, the repair or installation of 205,899 connectors, etc., totaling more than 51 million pesos in value, and which, in terms of concrete water supply results, have provided the following benefits, among others:

In the municipalities of La Lisa, Playa and Marianao, there is now daily service. In Diez de Octubre, La Habana Vieja, Cerro, Centro Habana, Plaza and Arroyo Naranjo, there is daily service, although there are difficulties in the higher and more distant sectors of the distribution network. In San Miguel del Padron, Guanabacoa, Regla and La Habana del Este, where there was service only every 2 or 3 days and there were some zones which received virtually no water, a daily supply for an average of 6 to 8 hours has been guaranteed. In Cotorro and Santiago de las Vegas and their subdivisions, where major difficulties existed, a daily supply of water has been guaranteed.

There are other achievements in connection with water economies, with the application of indices for consumption, and its correlation with 854 economic and social activities which are heavy consumers of this commodity, a gradual increase in the metering of customer consumption, with the installation of water meters and collection for this service, as well as an increase in the quantity and quality of the general maintenance work on equipment and the execution of the so-called "Operation No Leak" with regard to pipelines and networks.

With regard to the sewage and rain drainage systems, although the projects the city needs have not been built at the necessary rate, some have been completed, making it possible to resolve problems which had accumulated over a long time, such as blockages, the rehabilitation of sewage water pumping stations and partial drainage projects, while work is in progress to correct the courses of the Cojimar, Almendares and Orengo rivers and to clear the Martin Perez.

It is obvious that many difficulties and shortcomings remain to be corrected, ranging from the need for the modernization of the system of operation for the water supply and sewage networks, the lack of a suitable base for the general repair of this equipment and the shortage of materials and other critical supplies, and including problems in the operation of the systems and the quality of repairs and maintenance of these facilities, to mention only some of the main aspects.

The program for the gradual solution of the problems in these activities comes within the strategy for the period until the year 2000, and will entail investments in excess of 386 million pesos.

Communal Service Tasks

The tasks which fall to the Communal Services Department are varied, including the maintenance and rehabilitation of green areas, manual sweeping, the drainage program, garbage collection and the final disposition of waste, maintenance of tunnels and bridges, maintenance of urban decorative features, mortuary services and such projects as investments in road network repair.

During the period being analyzed, a substantial increase in these activities has been seen in comparison to the periods prior to the establishment of the People's Government Organs, and despite the difficulties and shortcomings encountered, the difference is visible to the naked eye quite apart from the statistical features.

The maintenance and rebuilding of green areas, including the planting of trees, has been satisfactory, as has manual sweeping, in which a steady increase can be seen each year. In urban sanitation, following the major campaign carried out at the end of 1981 to collect rubbish and unused items, an upsurge has been seen and a mechanism has been provided to prevent large accumulations of such waste materials, through the establishment of a household collection brigade.

The garbage collection situation was very critical when the People's Government began its term of office, and it has been gradually resolved by the establishment of a new mechanized system, and in a number of capital municipalities, with hermetically sealed containers. Currently problems exist because of the shortage of replacement parts for the garbage collection trucks and the containers themselves. This has even prevented extending the system to the entire city, which at some future time could hinder service. Solutions are being proposed or are under study, including the possible domestic production of the containers needed to extend the method or to replace those destroyed.

In the other tasks performed, it has been possible to maintain stable service and maintenance despite the material limitations. The steps taken have included, for example, the establishment of a maintenance brigade for the 15 undertaking establishments and 21 cemeteries in the province, and the execution of a major series of projects in the Bahia tunnel.

[Part 6: "Food Stores, Restaurants" 30 Nov 83 p 3]

[Excerpts] Because of its size, complexity and direct effect on the population, the trade, food establishment and services sector is perhaps one of the most difficult to describe and assess of all those covered by this summary.

Its main economic indicators show a favorable balance for the period between 1977 and the first half of this year, with an average annual increase of 5 percent. To obtain some idea of the magnitude we mentioned in the preceding paragraph, it suffices to note that the sales and the retail trade and public food service networks in the City of Havana account for something more than a quarter of the total for the whole country.

This sector has about 8,000 establishments for its activities, including stores for food and industrial products (including 2,134 groceries, 1,142 butcher shops and 149 supermarkets), repair shops for electric domestic appliances, kitchens and shoe shops, hairdressers, barber shops, cleaning establishments, laundries, restaurants, cafeterias, cabarets, tea rooms, bars, processing centers and others, as well as 157 warehouses and 99 cold storage facilities for wholesale trade operations, in which more than 66,500 workers are employed.

When the necessary comparisons are made, the volume of sales in trade and food establishments and services rendered in 1977 came to 811 million pesos, 344.9 million pesos and 80.4 million pesos for services rendered, while these figures increased to 1,159,000,000 pesos, 456.6 million pesos and 88.3 million pesos for services, respectively, in 1982.

Wholesale trade, for example, carried out its general distribution plans, although in order to avoid or alleviate inconveniences to the population, it was necessary to make deliveries direct from the port to the retail network, or due to the shortage of storage capacity, it was necessary to make early deliveries. The storage situation in this territory is very serious for all organs, but for the People's Government in particular, there is an extremely critical situation in this sector, threatening the efficiency of its management.

With regard to retail trade, the implementation of the plan for the development of supermarket distribution and services was launched, making it possible to commission 65 new supermarkets and minimarkets, to hold 37 farm fairs, and to organize 18 specialized units for the parallel marketing of food products, including the Single Market, the Marianao Marketplace, and the Central Supermarket, as well as 56 premises for the sale of industrial products.

This program is designed to ensure that by 1987, more than 80 percent of the population of the capital will be purchasing its products from this network, on the one hand, and to ensure the use of the premises thus liberated for industrial products and service establishments, on the other, in order to continue to extend and increase the number of this type of unit, in the outlying municipalities essentially.

Also during this period, the so-called commission houses were established for the sale of used items, as well as 15 specialized shops for the sale of industrial products which have been discontinued or for which there is little demand. The parallel market was introduced, with intensification beginning in September of 1982 of the sale of foodstuffs first and later industrial products, as a policy for the gradual elimination of rationing and the offering of new articles to the population. A level of more than half a million pesos in average daily sales has been reached.

Valuable Source

Local production units, which developed along with the Organs of People's Government, have during this period become a valuable source of widely

consumed articles and products, contributing to the satisfaction of the increasing needs of the population of the capital.

The level reached in 1982 represented 38 percent growth over 1977. In the food branch--bread, confectionery goods, saltines, canned goods and fruit and vegetable juices and roasted coffee--the increase was 16 percent, while in the nonfood category--items of furniture, ready-made clothing, domestic utensils and products, ceramic and craft articles--the increase was 81 percent. Another achievement in this sector during this period was the incorporation, with the valuable assistance of the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women], of 600 housewives in piecework at home. This work contributed 13 million pesos last year, not only improving the goods offered to the population, but converting a sizeable mass of women into producers, without involving expenditures on the productive process, dining rooms, nursery schools, etc.

During these years, 17 miscellaneous local industry shops were established for the free sale of their products. Some are located in almost all of the capital municipalities.

Work has been done and stress continues to be placed on improving the quality of these local products, as is reflected in the contribution of almost 2 million pesos made in 1982 by these articles intended for trade, tourism and export.

One of the main shortcomings in this sector has to do with the quality of bread, above all that sold in supermarkets and groceries. This situation results in the sale to consumers of bread which is not fresh by these establishments, due to the inadequate productive capacity in some municipalities. This makes it necessary to bake the product in two shifts, with the accumulation of a part of the first shift production for distribution the following day. In order to resolve this sensitive problem, work is being done with a view to increasing over-the-counter sales at the bakeries themselves, and to ensure that each locality becomes self-sufficient, as well as raising the level of administrative exigency and checking on fulfillment of the technical norms established.

In addition, work has been done recently on analyzing the needs and potential for increasing byproducts at all the enterprises, factories and workshops in the province.

Food Establishments and Other Services and Lenin Park

The basic emphasis in food establishments has been directed toward developing the popular network, above all in those municipalities which had few units of this type.

As a part of the diversification and expansion of these services, 155 soft-drink trucks, 296 cold-meat stalls, 104 freezers for the sale of ice and 17 pizza establishments were equipped. Service was expanded in 105 establishments, the sale of coffee was reestablished at 250 units, 12 premises were equipped for the sale of sugar-cane juice (out of a plan for 20), and a center for the sale of oysters was reopened. An optional meals system was

inaugurated at 1,159 workers dining rooms, and intensive work was done at the pizzerias to achieve efficient service in terms of quantity, quality and variety, to mention only some examples.

With regard to the provision of personal services and the repair of electric household appliances, it can be said that although there is no lack of material difficulties, due to a failure to keep up with the increase in demand (between 1977 and 1983 the number of these appliances, clocks, etc., in use virtually doubled) and the unavailability of replacement parts and materials for repair, the truth is that the best possible use of the premises, labor facilities and personnel is not yet being made.

However, a considerable effort in the direction of meeting the consumers' needs has been made, and substantial success has been achieved in altering the critical situation which existed 3 years ago, both with regard to equipment awaiting repair for lack of replacement parts and the reduction of the delivery cycles generally to acceptable levels. The numerous measures adopted such as the establishment of 14 new domestic appliance repair shops, an increase in cleaning and laundry services, the addition of new centers for minor repairs, of clocks, among other things, and the completion of 388 different training courses in the various specialties by more than 6,500 comrades, an increase in labor productivity, the operation of technical commissions, the recovery of parts and components, organizational improvements, etc., have contributed to this.

The work of Lenin Park is a part of this picture. While the variety of its cultural and recreational tasks has increased, its sales showed a drop of 1.9 percent in comparison to 1977, due to the decrease in the distribution of some of the traditional products.

Some Difficulties and Shortcomings

The opinions and critical comments of the people about this work do not differ much from the critical and self-critical assessments by the provincial and municipal leaderships of the pertinent People's Government Organs. Generally speaking, unsatisfactory treatment of the customers by the workers who fail to give them the needed attention, to provide them with proper information or to function at their assigned labor posts as they should is noted as the greatest shortcoming.

Also, there is failure to fulfill the technical, commercial and food service norms, poor quality is seen in the preparation and presentation of products, some workers are not where they should be, and managers are absent during the hours of peak demand. All of these things have a negative influence, in the view of customers.

Concerning these aspects and others reflecting the inadequacies which still exist, systematic work is being done, with the holding of technical, commercial and food service meetings, plenary sessions on quality, the raising of the cultural, political and technical level of the workers and administrative cadres, surprise inspections and the strict application of the penalty policy established for those who violate the norms.

The Model Unit movement in this sector, which is being developed and consolidated under the sponsorship of the trade union and administrative organs, should provide a supporting factor on which an ever-increasing number of establishments are relying, so that in the struggle to achieve this level, multiple initiatives will be undertaken to provide the efficient service wanted.

Finally, note should be made of the work pursued to carry out the plan of action against criminal violations in these activities, which in the past 2 years have included numerous operations undertaken in close cooperation with the Ministries of Interior and Domestic Trade. The direct result has been the punishment of a considerable group of managers and workers for the commission of the crimes of bribery, misappropriation of funds, consumer fraud, etc. In this connection, numerous control, quality and systematic supervisory measures have been adopted, which should put an end to all of these negative manifestations.

[Part 7: "Transportation" 1 Dec 83 p 2]

[Text] The City of Havana has, for the pursuit of transportation activities under the authority of the People's Government--taxis, school buses, service centers, automotive workshops, vehicle repair, construction and maintenance installations, maritime transport to Regla and Casablanca, and relations with drivers of private rental vehicles--a total of 232 establishments (137 service centers, seven tire stations, 22 taxi bases and four for school buses, and 62 workshops), as well as 3,710 vehicles (3,485 taxis, 204 buses and 21 launches).

Between 1977 and 1982, the production levels reached in this sector showed an average annual increase of 8 percent, including 3 percent for productive activity and 12 percent for trade activity. On the basis of this overall index, it can be stated that all economic indicators showed a favorable balance, reflected physically in more passengers transported, more runs made, more vehicles serviced in the workshops, more fuel sold and an increase in other services.

The above factors are not free of difficulties and shortcomings encountered during this period, which have led to critical comments by the public using these services.

In vehicle repair, for example, despite an average annual increase of 4 percent in the service provided, it should be noted that the repair and maintenance of automotive vehicles during these years was hindered by the low quality of work, mechanical and body work in particular, due on the one hand to factors such as the condition of many of these vehicles after years of use and the lack of replacement parts and materials enough to meet the demand fully and, on the other hand, to organizational problems, the low training level of workshop personnel, and lack of discipline, control and exigency.

For taxi operations (excluding home pickups, which are under national jurisdiction) the results are negative, because during this period the number of

passengers transported declined by 3 percent, and the number of runs made by 7 percent. This was caused by the ups and downs encountered during the period in the supply of parts, components, accessories and materials, with the result that the average fleet in operation declined.

In school transport, the results were satisfactory, due basically to the improvement in the system of operating the equipment.

Maritime transport activities suffered from nonfulfillment because of the deficient technical condition of the launches and the shortage of parts and attachments to ensure normal operation.

As to the service centers, the period reflected serious work done on overhauling, repairing and rebuilding the establishments and the struggle to provide ever better service.

The enterprises under the transportation office have analyzed the level of their activities in depth, and have adopted a series of organizational, control and requirement measures in order to proceed gradually to eliminate those shortcomings of a subjective nature which still exist, and which in themselves are contributing to causing substantial changes in the cycles currently characterized by inadequacy, while also resolving the difficulties of a material nature hindering these services.

[Part 8: "Entertainment" 2 Dec 83 p 4]

[Text] Concerning the rest of the activities under local jurisdiction which we have not as yet dealt with in these discussions of the main aspects of the Accounting Report to the National Assembly, we would note the following, by way of a very brief summary:

In the cultural sector, the City of Havana had as of the end of the first half of this year 322 cultural facilities, including culture and music houses, moving picture theaters, bookstores, libraries, museums, theaters and theatrical halls, and art galleries, shops and schools. Of these, 115 were established in the last 6.5 years.

Among the figures of interest, one might note the 30 million people who attended cultural presentations in 1982; the fact that in that same year, the number of visitors to museums was triple that in 1977; the fact that the amateur performers' movement showed favorable results, presently involving 5,128 groups and 70,750 members; and also the fact that library services have gradually increased to the point of reaching a total of more than 830,000 borrowers and a million items loaned last year.

Also worthy of note during the period since the establishment of the People's Government are the numerous literary and musical events and the celebrations organized by the Havana Foundation, the implementation of Law No 23 establishing the Historic Municipal Museums, the consolidation of artistic enterprises, the fulfillment of the plastic arts exhibits plans, the joint work with the mass organizations and administrative organs in the People's

Cultural Councils, as well as, and in particular, the tasks of restoration and preservation at the historic Old Havana Center and its system of colonial fortifications, which the UNESCO has officially declared a Treasure of Mankind.

In the film sector, although the number of premises has gradually declined in the past 2 decades, and almost all of those in operation required capital repairs, the capacity was only 14.6 percent utilized because of the limited variety in programming, the existing expanded cultural and recreational options, and the serious difficulties encountered in the air conditioning systems for the premises.

In connection with sports, some figures offer a gauge of their increase during the period under consideration. The budget doubled, sports installations increased by 15 percent, personnel increased by 43 percent (of 2,813 workers, 1,317 are teaching technicians, and of the latter 317 are higher-level graduates). The number of active athletes has increased by 8 percent, and popular participation in sports has increased by 24 percent. The participation of city athletes in national competitions has increased by 5 percent, with 11 percent for provincial and 27 percent for municipal competitions. Physical education is taught to 100 percent of the students on all levels, with the exception of the second primary school cycle and special education, where the figure exceeds 90 percent.

In addition, recreational activities have increased, the popular camping plan sponsored by the UJC [Union of Young Communists] was launched during this period, and effort has been devoted to establishing conditions for the use of the eastern beaches during the summer season, while work has continued on the coasts to expand the possibilities for their use.

Independent of the results mentioned, work is being done to eliminate the shortcomings and inadequacies in these activities, in particular with regard to concern for the development of such sports as baseball and boxing, where the desired advance has not been achieved, ensuring greater use and better care and maintenance of the premises and equipment available and greater involvement of the population in mass participation in sports, physical training and recreation.

The following tasks, among others, were completed in the architecture and urban development sector. Normative and methodological regulations were drafted, including the City Beautification and Sanitation Regulation. Typical and urban development promotion projects were carried out, and work was done on studies, proposals and projects by such permanent commissions as those on Development of Monumental and Environmental Sculpture, Transportation, Protection of Flora, Fauna and the Environment, etc.

Among the shortcomings to be overcome we might note the complexity of and delays in the procedures for issuing project licenses and notifications of Decree Law No 27, the delay in providing the technical services requested by the people, and the low level of exigency on the part of organs with regard to the observance of the provisions of the regulations governing the investment process.

The Justice Department under the jurisdiction of the People's Government was established in 1980. Achievements since that date include the issuance of certificates on the spot or within the 24 hours following application (previously, there were delays of up to 45 days), an increase in the number of wedding palaces, a gradual increase in the application of fines in accordance with Decree Law No 27, with shortcomings nonetheless remaining in attachments for delinquents and the reduction in the number of appeals filed, among other things.

In the radio broadcasting sector, although much remains to be done in terms of the technical, cultural and political education of the personnel in the struggle to improve technical conditions and programming at the four broadcasting stations, a series of measures adopted with regard to local radio stations should be noted. They have made it possible to modify the technological equipment at the stations and to initiate changes in the programming sector, reflected in different profiles and options for the various types of listeners in the city.

With regard to international relations, intensive work has been done with a view to establishing closer friendly relations with similar organs in the socialist countries and other friendly nations, resulting in exchanges of visits and experience and agreements and protocols signed.

Concerning publicity work, it should be noted that it has been oriented toward informing the population about the results achieved in each of the sectors, dealing with the difficulties and shortcomings and in general all of those activities undertaken and requiring popular participation. To this end, the provincial and national press organs and the bulletin entitled INFORMACION AL DELEGADO have been utilized.

[Part 9: "Defense, Local Government", 5 Dec 83 p 3]

[Text] The strengthening of defense capacity has been one of the main tasks of the People's Government in the past almost 7 years, and one to which the organizations and bodies of the capital city on all levels have devoted and are devoting their greatest effort.

Many positive results have been achieved in this connection, and to assess this statement it suffices to list some of the responsibilities successfully assumed during this period. They include the organization and establishment of the technical-material base and training of the personnel for the Territorial Troops Militia, the holding of the Bastion 83 Strategic Exercise, and the systematic concern devoted to the tasks of the Provincial Military Committee and the Municipal Military Offices.

The work in connection with perfecting of the Military Registry at the labor and student centers has been equally important, although it should be noted that it has still not been consolidated. Work has also been done with civil defense in preparations to protect the population and the economic and social targets in the event of aggression or natural disaster. The flexible and dynamic application of the plans concerning natural disasters, for example,

has on a number of occasions between 1979 and the present prevented the destruction of incalculable material assets and reduced to a minimum the losses which, given the magnitude of the events which have occurred, were inevitable. Work has also been done to meet the needs of the family members of international workers and combatants.

Satisfactory Operation

With regard to the organic functioning of the People's Government since its establishment at the end of 1976, it should be noted first of all that as in any new experiment, and in particular this one, which involved changes in the structure and the concept of administrative work, it has been necessary to adapt, perfect and consolidate it in the process of application.

If an analysis were based only on the aspects linked directly with the masses, their relationship with their representatives, the handling of their requests and complaints, and their contribution to the solution of local problems, one would have to say that there has been progress, admittedly not with all the speed which might have been wished. This was effected, on the one hand, by the fact that the potential has not always kept pace with the desires and always growing needs of the population, while on the other, the changes in the work methods required for flexible mechanisms, initiatives, etc., have not kept pace with the aspirations either.

The balance, despite the above reservations, is favorable. This is the result of the fact, for example, that both the assemblies and the executive committees analyze questions which are most frequently those causing the greatest popular concern during their sessions and meetings, with the resultant approval of measures designed to provide gradual or final solutions to them, depending on conditions and what is possible.

Where the Works Commissions of the Municipal and Provincial Assemblies (there are 160 and 21, respectively) are concerned, the work has been improving gradually, both in fulfillment of plans and in greater mastery of the tasks with which they deal and in the depth and rigor of the studies, reports and recommendations they make. One figure confirms this: In the third period of their term alone, 315 reports have been drafted on various subjects and problems, not to mention the thousands of visits, inspections and supervisory checks they have made at budget-supported establishments and units, schools, hospitals, sports facilities, etc.

The concern devoted by the deputies to the province has also increased, with the holding of meetings at which they have heard reports on activities, work projects and prospects, with a view to the solution of difficulties and shortcomings in the territory.

Substantial and positive changes have been seen in the aspects involved in the accounts rendered by representatives to their electors, both in terms of preparation, attendance at and the quality of the meetings. This is a matter on which the experience accumulated during these years itself and the gradual rise in the level of material resolution of the problems posed by the citizenry have had an effect (in the 16 processes occurring during the period,

328,572 problems were posed, with the material resolution of 169,307, or 51.5 percent, of them).

Although a certain percentage of the problems are dismissed by the representatives or by the voters at the meetings themselves, we might also add that the number of inadequate or formal responses by the administrative, enterprise and unit leaders in response to the questions posed by the people has declined.

Finally, it is only just to note the inclusion of the masses in the solution of the problems in their own localities, and in general, in all of the tasks related to the People's Government. In this connection, the following, among other achievements, are notable: the construction of sidewalks and curbs, the paving of streets, the bids awarded for the construction of such trade establishments as supermarkets, bakeries and farm markets, recreation areas, bus stations, innumerable social projects, the repair of school centers, participation in container and raw materials collection campaigns and in tasks pertaining to health, sanitation, hygiene, urban cleanup and beautification of the city.

Thus it is true that, although the existing limitations of a material nature in many instances prevent the completion even of planned projects, the readiness of the masses and their commitment to undertaking to meet their own needs themselves are ever greater, although for the time being it is not possible to utilize the full potential thereof.

5157

CSO: 3248/318

FRN, CFP CANDIDATES CRITICIZE 1984 BUDGET

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 3 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] ANE--Two opposition candidates have sharply criticized the structure of the 1984 general state budget; however, the government candidate justified the increase in public spending on the basis of the need to improve education.

The 107-billion sucre budget was analyzed by candidates Julio Cesar Trujillo, of the Popular Democratic Party; Angel Duarte, of the CFP [Concentration of Popular Forces]; and Leon Febres, of the National Reconstruction Front [FRN].

The economic analysts consider the state budget as the basis of the economic stability or instability of a nation.

When the budget is too high, it may be underfinanced; and it will be necessary to borrow money to finance the deficit. This causes intense inflationary pressures and imbalances in the economy.

Education

✓ Trujillo said that to analyze the budget correctly it is necessary to take into consideration not only the amount of the budget but also the method of financing it.

Refuting the criticisms, the candidate asked: Will teachers' salaries be a nonproductive expenditure? Trujillo said that investment in education is the most productive investment a country can make.

On the other hand, Duarte said that the budget has the flow of not being correctly and completely financed and that 85 percent of the total is earmarked for current expenditures (payment of salaries and other nonproductive expenditures).

Duarte recalled that state revenues are three times higher than those stated in the budget; however, he complained that they were dispersed among a series of autonomous institutions which are causing enormous waste and duplication of costs.

Duarte said that the deficit could be overcome by unification of the resources consumed by all those organizations.

Debate

Leon Febres Cordero said that the budget will rise to 109 billion sucres, without taking into account increases in salaries in the public sector.

Febres Cordero said that it was likely that the deficit would exceed the 10 billion sucres announced by the government.

"Seeing is believing," Febres Cordero said when he asked where the revenues would come from for the remaining 99 billion sucres of the budget.

"The whole thing is a farce," he said after complaining that 85 percent of the budget is earmarked for current spending.

Consolidation

Febres Cordero urged the government to consolidate the entire foreign debt and to renegotiate it as a whole to free up resources it is now absorbing.

Febres Cordero admitted that he does not believe in the capability of the authorities directing the renegotiations of the national foreign debt.

8143

CSO: 3348/206

MINING TO BECOME MAJOR SOURCE OF EXPORT EARNINGS

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Dec 83 p A-1

[Text] Mining will become the country's number one export sector, replacing oil, when it reaches its peak in the next few decades, at a time when Ecuador will no longer have exportable hydrocarbons or the foreign exchange revenues derived therefrom.

Only Namibia's gold reserves, calculated at 1,880,062 tons, with a production rate of 26,892 kilograms, and the possibility of increasing this rate considerably, could cover the payment of the Ecuadorean foreign debt of \$6.6 billion and increase the physical reserves of gold of the Central Bank of Ecuador, it was said.

The technical-administrative undersecretary of the Ministry of Natural and Energy Resources, Jorge Rengel, emphasized that the project will also provide the possibility of financing prospecting and exploitation in mines throughout the national territory. "This," he said, "will be the most important first step toward mining development in the country."

Rengel said that the country's mining potential has been barely utilized, that the economically exploitable deposits are known, that the country has a clear law covering the rights of the associates and the state as the proprietor of the natural resources, and that the sector will be the most important in the Ecuadorean economy.

However, he indicated that there was a lack of financing to take an inventory of the mining wealth, notwithstanding the fact that negotiations are underway with the National Investment Feasibility Study Fund to obtain lines of credit which will permit going forward with the projects.

At the same time, Japan and Canada have expressed interest in conducting studies and engaging in prospecting and exploration in several regions considered to have mining potential.

Japan has offered to conduct prospecting studies in the western section of the cordillera, approximately between the Santo Domingo de los Colorados Highway on the north, and Pallatanga on the south. For its part, Canada will provide a loan of \$25,000 to be invested in prospecting and exploration in the southeastern part of the Amazon region.

According to the undersecretary, when financing is obtained, the country will be able to begin exploitation of the resource this same decade and reach peak production in the following few decades. This could continue until the beginning of the next century.

Commenting on the mines of Namibia, Rengel said that their deposits are among the richest and easiest to exploit, comparable to the world's best deposits, such as those of South Africa, the Soviet Union, Canada, the United States and Brazil. "Ecuador," he said, "could exploit around 100 tons of gold per year, with a yield of 15 grams per ton, which would mean a considerable infusion of economic resources, considering the fact that a troy ounce of gold is currently quoted at about \$400.

8143

CSO: 3348/206

FEBRES CORDERO CRITICIZES INCREASE IN PUBLIC SPENDING

Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 24 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] Bulletin

The candidate for the presidency of the republic of the Independent Front and the National Reconstruction Front said in statements to the press that the exaggerated amount of nonproductive public spending is the principal cause of most of the problems from which the country is suffering; and, therefore, "if we are favored by the popular vote we will make every effort necessary to rationalize such spending and to bring it in line with the capacity of the people to pay taxes."

These statements were made by Leon Febres Cordero during a pledge-of-support meeting held on his behalf by a group of Quito producers and merchants which was attended by over 400 trade union leaders.

Febres Cordero added that it is inconceivable that despite the fact the government spent all of 1983 establishing new taxes, increasing existing taxes and decreeing all kinds of measures, such as a monetary devaluation of transfer resources from the meager budgets of families and Ecuadorean enterprises to the state, it is thinking about establishing more taxes on soft drinks, cigarettes and foreign exchange transactions to cover the 1984 budget which will total 107 billion sucres, that is, over four times the budget of the current regime when it assumed power.

Dance of Millions

The candidate of the National Reconstruction Front also said that the cost of the taxes established in 1983, plus the effects of monetary devaluation, rises in the price of fuels and the elimination of some subsidies, represent additional revenues for the treasury of about 30 billion sucres per year, a figure higher than the entire general state budget for 1979. He said, "That is one of the principal things the Ecuadorean people have had to endure and all that so the government can continue wasting the people's money."

8143

CSO: 3348/206

CENTRAL BANK PREDICTS 0.5 PERCENT GROWTH IN 1984

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 Jan 84 p A-1

[Text] During the present year, national economic activity will increase 0.5 percent, according to Central Bank estimates. This forecast contrasts with the 3.3 percent decrease in 1983 and is based on the belief that in 1984 agricultural-livestock production will be significant.

According to a study by the bank, in 1984 there will be agricultural growth of 16 percent, a rate higher than those attained in the past 4 years (1980, 3.2; 1981, 4.9; 1982, minus 2.3; and 1983, minus 29.1 percent).

Within the framework of this agricultural activity, it is estimated that bananas, coffee and cacao will experience a growth of 8.1 percent and other agricultural products 20.1 percent.

According to statements made in official circles, the serious drop in agricultural production experienced in 1983 will be appreciably recouped this year due to the fact that the severe winter season has ended and also because investments have been made in the sector to improve the volume of the harvests.

The forecasts of growth in agricultural activity in 1984 are having a positive impact on the economy's general index. In the manufacturing sector the growth rate will be minus 8 percent. As for the construction sector, there will also be a decline of 5 percent.

This source forecasts growth of 8.9 percent in the oil sector, including the refining of crude oil and 10.2 percent in the electricity, gas and water sector, figures similar to those of 1983. (Revenues from net taxes on imports and customs fees will decrease by 5 percent (in 1983 the decrease was 20 percent) significantly lower than the past year due to the forecast of an opening of imports for certain products and articles now banned or appearing on List III.

Seen as a whole, the picture of economic activity for 1984 is positive, according to official estimates. Recovery is being sought through an improvement in the agricultural-livestock sector, a basic activity in the country's economy. If this goal is attained, the rate of inflation will drop considerably with the availability of a real offer of national production.

However, an answer must still be found for the manufacturing sector, whose principal problems are rooted in the lack of production materials, raw materials and capital due to the ban on and higher prices, of imports. According to industrialists, there is an instability in cost prices aggravated by the fact that they are using a little over half their installed capacities.

According to the manufacturing sector, it will be necessary to readjust its situation if the 1984 decline is larger than in 1983 (from minus 5.6 to minus 8.0 percent).

A slackening in the decline of the construction industry in 1984 (from minus 15.4 to minus 5 percent) will be brought about by the public works to be completed during the year more than by a slackening of the decline in private construction activity, given the fact that there are still problems of financing.

8143

CSO: 3348/206

NATIONAL PARTY LEADER BLAIZE SET TO 'ANSWER THE CALL'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Dec 83 p 13

[Text] Hillsborough, Thurs., (AP):

The ailing leader of Grenada's only currently-organised political party believes he is the right person for a needed national healing process.

"There is a job to be done, a need for leadership after this national trauma. We think we have the experience. We would be remiss not to answer the call," explained Herbert Blaize, a 65-year-old attorney on this Grenadian out-island of Carriacou.

The leader of the Grenada National Party (GNP) served continuously in Parliament from 1957 until 1979, when Maurice Bishop's leftist coup dissolved Parliament. Blaize was the then-British colony's chief Minister in 1962-67.

"I don't anticipate a rigorous campaign," said Blaize, crippled by arthritis. "It is not a question whether I would like to run. I have already been called (in a recent party executive meeting)."

Blaize said his party continued meeting after Bishop's coup, until November 6, 1979, when a party executive was detained and held for nine days.

No Crowd Puller

After that, party leaders met only in executive session, and all but disappeared publicly, "because not only would we be challenging the forces of power, but endangering members who were not involved."

The usual description of Blaize is low-key, which some observers here say might be good medicine after the eccentric, corruption-tainted regime of Sir Eric Gairy, and the magnetic Marxism of Bishop, killed in an Army takeover that led to the October 25 U.S.-led invasion.

"He certainly doesn't get the crowds like Bishop, or Gairy could, but he doesn't have many enemies, and does seem to be respected," said a British diplomatic source, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

A nine-person interim council, appointed by Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon, will run Government until elections can be held, probably in about a year.

Survivors of Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM) say they are not ready to think about reorganising the party, and leading figures in Gairy's old Grenada's United Labour Party (GULP) are in exile, as he is.

A Trinidad-based exile group, called the Grenada Democratic Movement, apparently is trying to organise a new party.

While Blaize would probably benefit most from early elections, he said he did not think they should be held for 18 months.

"I think it would be unwise to rush, notwithstanding the fact that we are overdue for elections.

The last one was in 1976. But because of social and other disruptions, the next six months should be confined to dealing with social and economic problems," Blaize said in an interview in late November.

He said first priority was improving a police force he said was badly mismanaged and politicised, both by Gairy and Bishop.

He said the nation's communications, health care and transportation systems also needed immediate attention.

Blaize said Grenada was naturally in the U.S. umbrella of influence, but expressed concern about becoming a satellite.

He said he did not see the need for a permanent U.S. military presence.

"It would give substance to the line advanced by anti-Americans, that the valiant effort to rescue us was motivated by other reasons. I favour a position like Costa Rica, of non-armed neutrality."

Austria-Style

His GNP has, traditionally, been seen as the party of the middle class and business community. "We believe in individual liberties, but that does not mean unbridled freedom to exploit," Blaize said.

He envisions an Austria-style tripartite economy, with the Government providing regulation and stimulation of the private sector, and independent boards monitoring prices and other aspects of the economy.

The law office in his home is piled with political books and Blaize's own writings.

"I have never been uninvolved," he said. "I am not ready to retire."

CSO: 3298/399

CORPORATE AREA VIOLENCE HIT; RECORD IN ELECTIONS REVIEWED

Spaulding Condemnation

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Jan 84 p 9

[Text]

The following statement was issued by the Minister of National Security and Justice, Hon. Winston Spaulding, on the upsurge of violence in sections of the Corporate Area:

"On Wednesday, 28th January, 1984, at about 6.30 a.m. Constable Albert Thompson of the Patrol Division and his female companion, Esmie Roberts, were travelling along Princess Street on a Honda Motor-bike when they were violently fired on and killed by gunmen.

"Words alone are not adequate to express condemnation of this murderous outrage. This vicious act follows closely on the earlier brutal and inexplicable gun-slaying of KPH Porter, Michael Wilks, not far from the Kingston Public Hospital.

"As a result of this and other recent outrageous and criminal incidents I have called an emergency meeting with the Commissioner of Police and his

senior officers and instructed them to carry out intensive top level investigations into these atrocities.

"The Commissioner of Police has initiated extensive operations in view of intelligence reports indicating plans to create violence disruption in that and other areas. The public can be assured of the strongest response of the Security Forces in this situation.

"These criminal acts of which there are a number of grim and recent reminders, even within the past few days, underscore the fact that certain elements in our society are intent on disrupting the society and challenging the Security Forces and constituted authority.

"I extend my deepest sympathy to the relatives of the slain policeman and his companion, those of the KPH Porter and the relatives of the other victims gunned down in these recent barbaric and criminal outrages.

"The greatest monument we can erect to the memories of all those who have died at criminal hands is to cooperate with the forces of law and order to ensure that this type of oppressive criminality be brought under greater control.

"These activities cannot take place without people in various communities having information about the persons involved. I therefore make a strong appeal for all law abiding persons to come forward with information which can assist in putting an end to these activities.

"They can be assured that this information which can be given to the Commissioner of Police, senior officers of the Force or the Ministry of National Security will be treated with confidentiality.

"I also ask all law abiding persons to give special assistance to the Security Forces at this time while these extensive operations are underway."

Election-Linked Disturbances

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 8 Jan 84 p 9

[Article by Don Black: "The 'Switch-Uniforms' Caper"]

[Text] It is only too well documented that there were hundreds of politically-motivated killings in Jamaica, especially during the year or two prior to the 1980 General Elections. The official government publication **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SURVEY JAMAICA 1981** states that there were 889 (eight hundred and eighty-nine) killings reported to the police in election year 1980 alone.

In quoting this figure, "The Daily Gleaner" dated August 29, 1983 further comments: "much violence was associated with the general election held on October 30 that year, with almost the whole year devoted to electioneering".

Obviously there is no way to pinpoint precisely how many of these killings were politically motivated as distinct from "ordinary" crime, but the incidence of killings during that year was massively greater than during any average non-election year.

It would also be impossible to establish how much blame belonged to the PNP as opposed to the JLP, but there is no question that the party in power is in a much stronger position to orchestrate violence than is the opposition party. It should also perhaps be noted that killings and violence in general were much greater not only in 1980 but also prior to the 1976 election — approximately half way through the PNP's total period of ascendancy (than at any other time in Jamaican recent history).

Frightening
A further point that should be borne in mind is that the figure quoted above of 889 killings was the total reported from the police. Actual figures of unreported killings are by definition unavailable, but every Jamaican knows that many more such incidents were never officially recorded or published. One of the worst and most frightening aspects of these killings and this violence was that, increasingly, they

were being carried out by men dressed in green fatigue uniforms carrying automatic weapons — apparently members of the armed forces, that is, the soldiers of the Jamaica Defence Force.

The Commanding Officer of the JDF, Brigadier Robert I. Neish, knew this was not the case, and he knew also that it was absolutely essential to somehow reassure the voters that it was not the case, and that they could rely on the JDF to protect them on Election Day.

The people were confused, bewildered, terrified. Something had to be done. Something decisive to restore their confidence. Something that could not be sabotaged. Something.

But what?

The Jamaica Defence Force did not have sufficient laundering facilities to meet their requirements, so that it was necessary for their uniforms to be cleaned elsewhere much of the time — and it just so happened that most of that "much of the time", that "elsewhere" was on campus at the University of the West Indies in the Mona area on the outskirts of Kingston.

Uniforms lost

From as early as the first few weeks of 1980, it began to be noticed that

significant numbers of JDF green fatigue uniforms were apparently being "lost" during the laundering process.

This fact did not go unnoticed by Brigadier Neish. Nor did the fact that these "losses" coincided with the escalating attacks on innocent people by groups of men dressed in green fatigues, well-armed and ruthless.

Further, by around September, it also began to be noticed that members of the Jamaica Defence Force were being spotted to sell or otherwise hand over various accoutrements of JDF uniforms, such as caps, belts, rank insignia and the like, to unauthorized persons (many of whom were known to the JDF personnel, but seemingly did not have any qualms about "showing their true colours").

Increasingly, the "hit-men" in green fatigues were spreading death and panic, especially in certain selected areas not only in the Kingston and St. Andrew population centers, but around the entire island. There was little, if any,

doubt in the minds of neutral observers to whom I have spoken, or whose reports I have read, that by far the greater part of these terrorist activities were directed against known supporters of the JLP.

Groundwork

But by this time, Brigadier Neish had evolved his plan. He divulged it to nobody, not even his most senior, most trusted officers. It was simple, but brilliant — and a total secret — perhaps the three best characteristics inherent in the product of an excellent military mind.

A few days before the election, Neish issued his first instructions that were to lay the groundwork for his plan. Calling in his top people, he pointed out that the JDF would be "deploying in the field", and since this would be for an unknown period (it could be "days or even weeks", he told them), all personnel were to have three sets of green fatigues — and two sets of dress khaki. This was necessary, he stated, because nobody could tell at that stage to what extent there might be violence, or how long it might last, or the degree of support which the JDF might be called upon to control and suppress any such violence.

There was some grumbling and grouching about this, because nobody other than himself knew yet what he had in mind.

Still, he kept his plan to himself.

And then, at about 8 p.m. on October 28, the Brigadier issued the vital order that was essential and integral to his plan, and upon which it depended.

As of 0600 (6 a.m.) the following morning, all JDF personnel, without exception, would wear dress khaki uniforms.

Any persons, of whatever apparent rank, who were seen in green fatigues, were to be apprehended at all costs!

These instructions, as well as being issued by the Commanding Officer to his own forces, were also made known to the public by the issuance of a press release.

Little choice

Radio Jamaica broadcast the release, which left the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation little choice other than to do the same (the latter station, commonly known as JBC, had by then

begun to be regarded by many as little better than a propaganda vehicle for the PNP government, although it had originally been set up along the lines of the British Broadcasting Corporation).

There is of course no way to measure the extent of which this last-minute move enabled the voters of Jamaica to feel safe and secure in going out to the polling stations to cast their votes for the party of their choice, under the watchful protection of the khaki-clad members of the Jamaica Defence Force.

What is, however, certain, is that the apparent sweeping victory by the PNP in 1976 (at which time there were widespread complaints of bogus voting, intimidation and other electoral malpractices) was more than merely reversed in 1980.

Eddie Seaga and his JLP were swept into office, with 51 seats as against only 9 for Michael Manley and the PNP!

Coincidence? Who knows?

Whatever the truth behind these happenings may be, it is encouraging to see that discussions were being held between the leadership of the JLP and the PNP with the aim of "establishing a basis for understanding" in an effort to prevent any resurgence of large-scale political violence.

The same August 29, 1983 edition of "The Daily Gleaner" referred to earlier quotes Dr. Paul Robertson, Secretary General of the People's National Party, as stating at a press conference that the PNP was "determined that we should not have a repeat of the political violence which took place in 1980".

Referring to the holding of the discussions between the leadership of the two major parties, he further said that "this is being done in an attempt to prevent any recurrence of violence on a massive scale."

Now, nobody who knows anything about the "facts of life" of Jamaican politics would ever claim that no JLP supporters (or "Labourites" as they are commonly known) were guilty of any violence during the 1980 election, or previous elections, for that matter.

But I personally feel that, with the JLP under the quiet-spoken Seaga being "in the driver's seat" when the next contested election comes along, it would not surprise me at all to see considerably less violence, and significantly fewer politically-motivated killings, this time as compared with the previous two elections.

Especially if Major-General Neish remains in charge as Commanding Officer of the Jamaica Defence Force.

During this, Jamaica's "hour of decision", I trust he will.

PNP TAKES OPPOSING MEASURES AS PARLIAMENT RECONVENES

People's Forums Slate

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Jan 84 pp 1, 13

[Text] Mr Michael Manley, president of the People's National Party, announced yesterday that the first "People's Forum" organised by the party will be held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on February 2.

Speaking at a press conference held at the same hotel yesterday afternoon, Mr Manley said that the People's Forum "reflected the determination of the PNP to continue to discharge its responsibilities to Jamaica, the democratic process and to the majority of people who looked to the party to form the next and legitimate Government of Jamaica."

Mr Manley also announced the names of 15 persons to speak on areas related to the administration of Government.

They are:

Mr Seymour Mullings, Finance and Planning;
Mr Horace Clarke, Mining, Energy and Technology;
Mr Desmond Leakey, Agriculture;
Mr Alfred Rattray, Industry and Commerce;
Mr Anthony Spaulding, Housing;
Mr Ralph Brown, Local Government and Community Development;
Mr Carlyle Dunkley, Education, Youth and Sports;
Mr Robert Pickersgill, Public Utilities and Transport;
Miss Portia Simpson, Women's Affairs, Consumer Affairs, Pensions and Social Security;
Mr K. D. Knight, National Security; Mr Ruddy Lawson, Health and Environment;
Mr Frank Pringle, Tourism;
Mr O. D. Ramtallie, Construction and Maintenance;
Mr Derrick Rochester, Labour;
Dr Edwin Jones, Public Service and Public Sector Manpower Development.

These persons are to be assisted by the chairmen of the Task Forces dealing with the relevant areas.

Mr Manley said that at the People's Forum to be held on the first Thursday of every month, Mr Carl Rattray, "one of our most senior and distinguished

parliamentarians," would be chairman, while Mr Terry Gillette, whose dedication to the Parliamentary process was well known, would be coordinator of Forum activities.

Mr Manley, the Party Leader, Mr P. J. Patterson, Party Chairman, Dr Paul Robertson, General Secretary, Mr Donald Buchanan, Deputy General Secretary, have not been assigned specific duties in connection with the Forum.

For his part, Mr Manley "will ensure that the work and utterances of the spokesmen are within a coordinated and coherent framework and will have to provide a broad national overview which is required."

Mr Manley said that both the Party Chairman and himself were expected to speak on matters of national importance as the need might arise. These matters will include the fields of Foreign Relations, Regional Affairs, Information and Culture or vital issues as they affect the economy and production.

While the General Secretary and his Deputy would be concentrating on rebuilding and organisation of the Party, Constitutional Reform would be kept under special review by Mr Dudley Thompson.

On the question of Electoral Reform, which was a major focus of attention, the General Secretary was expected to protect the Party's interest in this vital area.

Mr Manley said that the primary responsibility of the spokesmen would be "to monitor the Government's performance, analyse and criticise Bills, Legislation and Ministry Papers, assist in the development of party political opinions, work closely with the Party's Task Forces announced earlier, publicly articulate party positions, to maintain regular contact and dialogue with organisations and individuals in the related sectors.

Development of the People's Forum was designed to enable the PNP "to continue to vigorously represent the broad interests of the people through representation for improved quality of life at the national and community level; to represent and promote the party's viewpoint on legislation; scrutiny of the Government's economic and social performance; assessment of the state of the economy, cost of living concerns; and, very importantly, the conditions of the working-class generally; and interaction with the public by providing an opportunity to organisations and members of the public to express their views on topical issues."

Mr Manley listed some of the invitees to make presentations at the "bar" of the People's Forum as representatives of the constituencies, diplomatic corps, the Church, trade unions, transport operators, teachers, nurses, the Jamaica Exporters Association, the Council, the American Association of Jurists, the Press Association of Jamaica, the Medical Association of Jamaica, and the Masterbuilders Association.

The general public will have limited access through "special tickets" of admission.

Those individuals and organisations wishing to make presentations or ask questions should address their request to the Forum Chairman, Mr Carl Rattray, at the PNP headquarters; and in the case of those who might be averse to this location, for want of appearing non-partisan, should send their requests to P.O. Box 44, Kingston 5.

The PNP President said that journalists on assignment would have access to the activities of the People's Forum for the purpose only of reporting on the proceedings. Reporters would not be allowed to ask questions, as this opportunity would be provided at press briefings and conferences.

Replying to a question as to whether the People's Forum would get the level of press coverage desired, Mr Manley said: "We are assuming that, and this is a reasonable assumption, if the organisation speaks for a dynamic sector of the society which is the majority of the Jamaican people, the duty of the Press is to carry those proceedings effectively and completely and also to criticise.

"A voice of such uncontestable authority cannot be ignored by the Fourth Estate. The minority of the Jamaican people will be spoken for in Parliament while the majority will be spoken for at this Forum."

Mr Manley said that the People's Forum would not be an "exclusive club for the famous," adding that the "grass-roots" people will be welcome and allowed to express their views. After careful consideration, it was thought to hold the Forum at a fixed venue, the Pegasus Hotel.

His tour of duty with Columbia University would not affect his participation in the People's Forum, he said, as he would be making 12 trips for the calendar year; none of which would fall on the first Thursday of every month.

The People's Forum, he said, represented one of the most important responses by the PNP to the crisis created in the Jamaican democracy by Mr Seaga's "immoral and grossly improper act" in calling an election in "breach of solemn agreements and undertakings and under conditions which amounted to a rape of the democratic process."

"We boycotted that bogus election and we continue our protest."

Mr Manley said the Forum would continue to operate, pending the PNP's return to Parliament following fresh elections based on updated electoral lists and the provision and distribution of ID cards to electors.

7,000-Strong Demonstration

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] The first sitting of Jamaica's first one-party Parliament took place yesterday incident-free but under the watchful eyes of a heavy deployment of policemen armed with guns and tear-gas. There was also a large contingent of police dogs on stand-by.

Assistant Police Commissioner Barry Cross said that just over 300 policemen were deployed in the vicinity of Gordon House, with other patrols bringing the total contingent to about 400.

He said that for the entire day of operations, only once did the police disperse a crowd which had tried to march down to Gordon House. The crowd was dispersed earlier in the day on Slipe Pen Road, and was told that it would not be allowed to continue if its members persisted in marching.

He said that they were cooperative and broke up, and continued on their way in groups of twos and threes.

In spite of warnings from Police Commissioner Joe Williams about demonstrations, a crowd which the police estimated at some 7,000 people, led by People's National Party (PNP) leader Mr Michael Manley, and other party leaders gathered on Duke Street between St. George's Avenue and East Queen Street in a peaceful, placard-bearing demonstration.

They were held behind a double police barrier while they bore banners commenting on the recent increases in gasoline and electricity rates as well as describing the Parliament and the Prime Minister as "bogus," among other things.

A small group of bell-ringing Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) supporters gathered north of Gordon House outside the headquarters of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU). They jumped and cheered, and sang party songs. They too were held behind police barriers at the intersection of Charles and Duke Streets.

Speaking to the GLEANER at the end of the sitting at which 58 of 60 Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) Members of Parliament were sworn in, the Minister of National Security, the Hon. Winston Spaulding, said that the heavy police presence was deployed against the background of information about possible political confrontation, demonstration and meetings, as well as the underlying tension in the downtown area of Kingston which started with the shooting of a policeman and his pregnant girlfriend last week.

He said that the Security Forces tried for a good mixture of allowing for public expression as well as taking steps so that confrontation would not occur. He said that the fact that there had been no incidents was proof that they had succeeded.

"A great deal of good sense prevailed all round," Mr Spaulding said, adding that permission for marches and meetings was refused both political parties.

"It would have been utter madness to give permission for marches and meetings," he said. He added that JLP members had wanted to march but they too were stopped at both the party and government level.

Commenting on the peaceful march which Mr Manley led from Duke Street after the sittings of the Senate and the House of Representative started, the Minister said the fact that the P.N.P. was allowed to march from Duke Street was proof that the Government was not trying to prevent public expression, but in the context of law and order it had to maintain a policy of "effective control with democratic expression."

Opening-Session Proceedings

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Jan 84 pp 1, 13

[Text] The first session of the new Jamaican Parliament commenced at Gordon House, Duke Street, yesterday with the usual pomp and gaiety, unmarred by a demonstration by the People's National Party which was matched by a counter-demonstration of Jamaica Labour Party supporters.

While the PNP supporters shouted criticism at the new all-JLP Parliament and members, the JLP supporters rang bells and cheered on the members.

There was a very strong security presence in the area, comprising soldiers and police, to check possible clashes between JLP and PNP supporters, but there were no incidents, and each side kept within their bounds.

A large group of PNP supporters, carrying placards and singing party songs, massed at the corner of Duke Street and St. George's Avenue, a few yards below their usual gathering place, from midday. The leader of the party, Mr Michael Manley, stood at the front of the crowd.

They waved placards and sang party songs until shortly after the proceedings in the House started, when they retreated to the corner of Duke and Sutton Streets, where they were addressed by Mr Manley and then dispersed.

In the meantime, a relatively small crowd of JLP supporters who had gathered at the corner of Duke and Charles Street, in the afternoon, swelled into a large mass as Government members arrived, some accompanied by supporters, and walked to the BITU head office where they gathered for the ceremonial march to Gordon House.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga left his car and security entourage on Charles Street and walked with the swelling, bell-ringing and slogan-chanting JLP crowd to the BITU office.

JLP Members of Parliament and Senators, as is usual, were led from the head office of the BITU to Gordon House by Prime Minister Edward Seaga. The eight Independent Senators, who will form the Opposition in Parliament, waited in the Opposition's waiting room at Gordon House for the commencement of the proceedings.

The proceedings in the House commenced on time with the entry of the Senators into the chamber at exactly 1.55 p.m., two minutes before their scheduled entrance. They were followed by the chairman of the Jamaica Council of Churches, the Rev. C. Evans Bailey who read the prayers.

As was expected, the Senators reelected unopposed Senator Oswald Harding to the position of President of the Senate. Senator Harding was proposed by the leader of Government Business, Senator Dr Ronald Irvine, with the seconder being Senator Dr Lloyd Barnett.

The GLEANER was informed by Senator Charles Sinclair, after the swearing-in, that the Opposition Senators had chosen Dr Barnett as their Coordinator, a role somewhat similar to that of Leader of Opposition Business in the Senate.

After the 20 Senators had taken the Oath of Allegiance and left, there was a delay of some 20 minutes due to the late arrival of Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC) technicians to attend to their equipment inside the Chamber.

When the proceedings in the House started, Mr Astil Sangster (North-East Westmoreland) proposed the Hon. Alva Ross as the new Speaker of the House. This was seconded by Mr Ferdie Yap (West Central St. Andrew). The selection of Speaker was announced last month by Prime Minister Seaga.

Mrs Joan Webley (East Rural St. Andrew) proposed Dr Sydney Beaumont, former Deputy Leader of Government Business, as the new Deputy Speaker. This was seconded by Mr St. Clair Shirley (West Portland).

The gallery of the House was packed to capacity for the occasion. There were two absentees in Dr. Neville Gallimore (North-West Clarendon), the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, who is currently attending the Latin American and Caribbean economic summit in Quito, Ecuador, and Mr E. K. Powell, who is also abroad on business. [as published]

A note of irony was brought into the proceedings when Mr Earl Spencer (South St. Andrew) decided to shake the hands of the Hon. Pearnel Charles as a reminder of their stay in the detention camp during the 1976 State of Emergency.

This precedent was followed by the other M.P.s who were similarly detained, Mr Pat Stephens (West St. Andrew), and Mr Ferdie Yap (West Central St. Andrew), who shook the hands of the other M.P.s who were detained, and went to the Members Gallery where he hugged and kissed Senator Olivia Grange, the only female member of the House who was similarly detained in 1976.

The loudest applause was given to Mr Ryan Peralto, who now holds the East Central Kingston constituency formerly held by Mr Michael Manley.

The House adjourned to sit again next Tuesday at 2.15 p.m.

Corporate Area Protests

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Hundreds of People's National Party supporters protested against the Government in some sections of the Corporate Area on Tuesday, but the police reported no incidents.

A tour by a GLEANER team showed about 100 P.N.P. supporters at the bus stop in Cross Roads square, Kingston 5, at around 10 a.m.

They had placards with the anti-Government slogans, such as "Bogus Government" "Food Price Gone Up"; and protesting against the snap election, devaluation of the dollar, and the rise in the cost of living.

Up Half-Way Tree Road towards the square, near Oxford Road, about 50 persons were seen marching loosely going towards the direction of Cross Roads.

In Half-Way-Tree Square, at around 10.30 a.m. everything was normal. So was the scene at Bray Street and Winward Road, in East Central Kingston, where earlier in the morning P.N.P. supporters had gathered.

P.N.P. headquarters on Old Hope Road in St. Andrew was a hive of activity, as it appeared that this was the base from which the party supporters would be going to make their protest on Duke Street, before the Parliament building.

In the precincts of Gordon House as the hour drew close to the swearing-in of members of the House, security was tight.

Traffic had been barred from the immediate area and the police presence was what one observer called "heavy."

When the GLEANER visited the scene in the early afternoon, on the southern side, hundreds of P.N.P. supporters had gathered at a police barrier at Duke and Sutton Streets.

They had anti-Government placards and they sang party songs, some new, such as "Bogus Government, what we do you?" and "We are not afraid."

Traditionally, the police barrier is placed a block up northwards at St. George's Avenue and Duke Street, and there was an unusual strong police presence, with the men heavily armed with riot equipment.

But the P.N.P. supporters were peaceful. They sang their songs, waved their placards, had light banter with police officers manning the barriers.

Mr Michael Manley, the party leader, in a short address to them before the swearing-in of Senators and MP's at the House, advised that the police would be removing the security barrier at Sutton Street and they should follow him to St. George's Avenue, the usual public barrier stop. But there, they would go no further.

This was done and when the JLP-M.P.'s marched from the opposite BITU headquarters end, two blocks up, the PNPites' reaction was shouts of "Bogus Government" and "Bogus Parliament."

As the JLPites marched down to Gordon House, the hundreds of their supporters, stopped by the police barriers at Charles Street and Duke Street, sang "Michael where art thou?"

The security was strengthened by the presence of members of the Mounted Troop and the Canine Division of the Police Force.

While the swearing-in ceremony was going on in the House, Mr Manley returned to address his supporters. He said it was a bogus government, a bogus parliament and asked them to get enumerated, and be ready to vote. He lauded the cooperation of the Security Forces and the Party followers in making the protest peaceful, and called for a cheer for the Security Forces, which the crowd gave.

Earlier Mr Manley told the GLEANER that the P.N.P. protest had been successful: there was a large turnout and it was peaceful and within the law.

Senate Swearing-In

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Text] The 12 Government Senators and eight Independent Senators appointed by Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, took the Oath of Allegiance at the swearing-in ceremony at Gordon House on Tuesday.

Senator Oswald Harding was elected President of the Senate on the nomination of Senator Dr. Ronald Irvine, which was seconded by Senator Dr. Lloyd Barnett, who has been named Coordinator of the Independent Members of the Senate.

Prayers were read by the Rev. C. Evans Bailey, President of the Jamaica Council of Churches at the start of the ceremony, following which, the Proclamation summoning the Senate was read by the Clerk of the House, Mr Edley Deans.

Senator Harding was escorted to his chair by Senators Dwight Nelson and John Issa. Senator Harding thanked the members for electing him as President and promised to be "a true and faithful servant" who would protect the rights of the people and the Constitution.

Senator Jeanette Grant-Woodham was elected Deputy President of the Senate on the nomination of Dr Ronald Irvine seconded by Senator Olivia Grange.

The other Government Senators, taking the Oath of Allegiance were Dr Irvine, Mr Hugh Hart, Miss Grange, Mr Chris Bovell, Mr Issa, Mr Ephraim Morgan, Mr St. George Ramacon, Mr Dwight Nelson and Mr Arthur Zaidie.

Each senator shook the hands of the President of the Senate and the Independent Senators' Coordinator, Dr Lloyd Barnett.

The Independent Senators who took the Oath of Allegiance were Dr Barnett, Miss Barbara Blake, Mr Courtney Fletcher, Mr Emile George, Dr Errol Miller, Rev. Sam Reid, Mr Charles Sinclair, and Dr. Keith Worrell.

After the ceremony, Senator Harding called the usual items in the Order of Business of the Upper House.

Under announcements, Senator Ronald Irvine, Leader of Government Business, said that he should have named the portfolios of the Government Senators. However, he begged leave until the next sitting do so. [as published]

Senator Irvine moved for the adjournment of the Senate for a date to be fixed.

Manley Attack on JLP

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jan 84 p 10

[Text] President of the People's National Party, Mr Michael Manley, yesterday promised to wipe the "bogus" Jamaica Labour Party Government into "political oblivion" once the "live voter" had received his identification card and the "dead voter" was in heaven.

Once new voters received their identification cards, Mr Manley said, the party would be ready. "Mek them come face us...we will wipe them into political oblivion," Mr Manley told thousands of jubilant supporters at the intersection of Duke and Sutton Streets in Kingston.

Mr Manley's address followed five demonstrations by his party throughout the Corporate Area against what they call the "bogus Parliament" and the Government's economic policies.

The last of the demonstrations was held at the intersection of St George's Lane and Duke Street, a couple chains south of Gordon House.

A heavy security curtain was thrown around the environs of Gordon House by police and soldiers. This together with the traditional spirited support by partisan supporters at the opening of Parliament held the attention of scores of workers who went on protracted lunch time as they took in the scene from various vantage points of their workplaces.

Supported by top members of the party leadership, Mr Manley led away his supporters to the meeting spot further down the road during the Swearing-in Ceremony inside Gordon House.

Mr Manley paid tribute to the security forces for their cooperation in the demonstrations.

He appealed for and received rounds of applause for the security forces. Speaking from the back of a truck, Mr Manley thanked his supporters for "legally, peacefully and constitutionally" demonstrating.

The supporters had come out because "what is taking place up there is bogus." It was based on a bogus election which had produced "a bogus Parliament, bogus MPs, bogus Senators, bogus Parliamentary Secretaries" and a "bogus Cabinet" presided over by a "bogus man named Seaga."

Mr Manley at this point paid tribute to the security forces for their co-operation and stated that his party had no quarrel with them, neither doctors, nurses, civil servants and other groupings "but away with bogus Government," he declared as his placard-bearing supporters took up the chant-- a rallying cry of the demonstrators.

Describing the demonstrations as "only round one," Mr Manley promised "round two" for the future but declined to spell out when and what this would be.

He appealed to his supporters to "take your photograph, get enumerated and get ready" so that a situation could be reached where the voters' list would have "live men" with vote and not "dead man" with vote.

The leadership of the party would press forward with organisational work, Mr Manley said, referring to the upcoming people's forum. He sympathised with the people for their suffering from "the wicked cruelty of the gas price increase" which had come from a "bogus budget" with "bogus taxation."

As the supporters headed for home, he advised that they think of the day's events and hold themselves in readiness. They should be ready with discipline until they were called on.

The speech over, Mr Manley was swept away by his supporters along Sutton Street and up Hanover Street to South Camp Road where they dispersed.

In answer to the GLEANER before his address, Mr Manley said the demonstrations had been peaceful.

PNP Councillor, Mr Beresford Johnson of the Parade Gardens Division told the GLEANER that his car had been stopped in the Central Kingston area by members of the security forces during the morning. He had to drive to the Elletson Road Police Station where the police confiscated some posters he had.

The Police Information Centre did not confirm the incident.

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jan 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Mocking Parliament"]

[Text]

Now that the People's National Party has announced its plan to hold its first "People's Forum" at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on February 2 next, it is appropriate to take a look at the significance of this move by the party.

In the first place, it is proper that the PNP, as one of the two major political parties in the country, should appoint a number of persons to be its spokesmen on matters of national importance. Particularly since the party is not represented in Parliament, it is vital that it helps to keep democracy alive in Jamaica by having its voice heard from time to time on major national issues.

The line-up of men and women which it has named for this task is a good one, and sets the right tone for the exercise of its democratic and constitutional right as a vehicle for public expression and public involvement in the affairs of the nation. There are, of course, a few surprises among those selected and a notable omission seems to be that of Mr. Hugh Small, who was a leading member of the previous Government of the PNP, having held office as Minister of Finance.

But having said that, we wonder whether the PNP ought to persist with this charade of having what amounts to a mock Parliament outside of Gordon House. The only place from which laws can emanate and policy debated and decided at the national level is the duly constituted Parliament of the country. Any forum that seeks to set up a sort of parallel Parliament is nothing short of a mockery of the democratic and legislative institution which is

constituted of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

To talk of having persons being called to the "bar" at the Pegasus Hotel, to act as though the affairs of the country are capable of being debated and dealt with at the PNP's People's Forum is, it seems to us, unworthy of the great party which the Rt. Excellent Norman Manley once led. It is one thing to protest against a one-party House, but it is quite another to set up a one-party forum as a response.

As we see it, the proper role for the PNP to play in the present regrettable situation of a one-party Parliament is to conduct itself as though it had contested the General Election of December 1983 and had lost its bid to win any of the seats in the House. And therefore, as a defeated but not vanquished party to continue to play its responsible and recognised role in the proud tradition of the country's two-party political system by maintaining a watchdog role on Parliament and acting as a conscience of the nation in seeing that all goes well with the body politic.

What goes on at Gordon House is constitutional and legal. What will go on at the Pegasus Hotel at the PNP's Forum will be extra-constitutional and extra-legal. What is worse, it is cocking a snook at Parliament. It is demeaning and shabby. And also highly ridiculous in the claim that it represents a majority of the people of the country. Only those who face the electorate and win seats can claim this.

Let us have done with this particular piece of folly.

GLENER NOTES SENATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW DEPARTURES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jan 84 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

An examination of the Constitution of Jamaica will show that there is no provision for the dismissal of a Senator by the Prime Minister who normally nominates 13 Government Senators, or by the Leader of the Opposition who normally nominates eight Opposition Senators.

The reason for this may be that in drafting the constitution the framers discussed qualifications of membership of both members of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the same paragraphs, and as Members of the House are elected and cannot be dismissed, it did not occur to the framers to include a clause giving those who nominate Senators the power to ask for their dismissal.

Consequently, when a Government Senator fell out of grace with the Government in 1965 and he was requested to resign, he refused, and continued to sit in the Senate.

Since then, we understand, that though there has been no public announcement of it, both parties, the JLP and the PNP, have worked out a formula by which Senators are forced to resign when they fall foul of their Party.

In one case we know that when members accept appointment to the Senate they sign resignation

forms leaving it undated, so that when problems arise those forms are submitted to the Governor General. For, according to the Constitution, once the Governor General receives the letter of resignation, the Senator will be deemed to have resigned.

We state the above because it underlines the fact that though the Prime Minister, under Section 81, has been able to enjoy the authority of nominating and appointing Senators to sit on the Opposition side of the Senate, there is no provision in the Constitution to allow him to ask for the resignation or to dismiss any of those eight Senators. And certainly, we assume that there would be no formula for him to do this as it would be against the spirit of having no Opposition albeit constituted by members who are not openly attached to any political party, and are thus termed "independent."

This means that the eight independent Opposition Senators are in a strong position in the life of the current Parliament. They are able to speak frankly and openly in the interest of the people of the country, particularly those who do not support the present Government. The PNP has made it clear that the eight have no mandate to speak for the PNP. This is fair.

enough, but this does not prevent them from making observations and comments which would include views not only of the PNP, but of other parties and of other individuals in the country.

In the light of this, we wonder whether a new tradition should not be set in the Senate in that the Senate could perhaps begin its functions with a State of the Nation debate without waiting until later in the year when the Governor General gives his Throne

Speech on the basis of which the regular State of the Nation debate is wont to be held. It would be a good departure if early in this calendar year the Senate were to kick off Parliamentary proceedings with a spirited debate on the state of the country at present — economic, political, educational, social and security, health and so on.

We hope that the Government and the Senators will give this some consideration.

CSO: 3298/401

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WANT GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN POLICIES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jan 84 p 16

[Text]

The Associated Chambers of Commerce is to protest the recent gas price rise and petrol-based price increases as well as the proposed steep increase in the price of cooking gas.

The Council has also questioned the government's import policy and is to send a delegation to the Minister of Industry and Commerce on the matter of delays with licences.

The Council said it viewed the gasolene issue with "concern" for such increases were bound to have an effect on nearly every conceivable item in Jamaica. Furthermore, the timing of the measures when there was no opposition in the Lower House, was more than disastrous.

Speaking at the Council's recent annual general meeting at River View in St. Margaret's Bay, Portland, the president, Mr. Winston Meeks, questioned the rationale of the steep rise in electricity rates, in light of the subsidy of \$100 million now going to the Jamaica Public Service Company out of the government's "excess profits" which will accrue from the unwelcome (New Year) gift of gasolene at \$8.99 per gallon.

This, Mr. Meeks declared, was not in keeping with an earlier announcement by the Minister of Industry and Commerce to keep the impact of higher cost of electricity to a minimum. The Council said it would be seeking information explaining the increases and also questioned whether the government would have dared to raise the gas price so high had there been an effective parliamentary opposition in place to protest the measure.

"These being the first two public actions of the new parliament, the Council said, "one may very well ask what next must we expect."

The Associated Chambers, which is a body of representatives from all Chambers of Commerce across the island, also took issue with delays within the Trade Administrator's Department.

In his address, Mr. Meeks said the importing community had welcomed the Prime Minister's Budget speech statement that a new restricted import list would be published and the quota system abolished.

He said importers envisaged that this had meant there would be no waiting to order raw materials, capital goods and other necessities, import applications for which in the past, because of the ever-changing policy, had created a backlog in the Trade Administrator's Department, and the country was coming to a virtual halt.

These undertakings have unfortunately not been met and no business planning has been able to take place without this type of knowledge," Mr. Meeks said.

The Council decided to send a delegation to seek audience with the Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Hon. Douglas Vaz, to be enlightened as to the government's import policy for 1984.

Earlier in his speech, Mr. Meeks congratulated the government on the appointment of eight members to form an Opposition in the Senate. He said he hated to know that there was no Opposition in the Lower House as all power in the hands of any group of politicians allowed for unbridled authority to do as

they pleased, which could not be good for any country.

However, he felt that the People's National Party had let down the nation and had disfranchised approximately 47 percent of the voting population by not contesting the general election, which he pointed out was quite constitutional.

Said Mr. Meeks: "I certainly do not buy their argument that they failed to face the tape because of the number of

individuals who would not have been able to vote and who would have been eligible since 1980, having in mind that the identical situation existed in 1972. And as to the unproven agreement which they claim is the bone of contention, — which side is more believable, the one that openly confesses that he takes oaths of allegiance that he does not mean, or the other whose integrity remains unsullied?"

CSO: 3298/401

PRIVATE SECTOR LEADER SEES REVIVAL IF GOVERNMENT COOPERATES

Remarks by New PSOJ Head

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jan 84 pp 1, 16

[Text]

A declaration that the private sector of Jamaica has the potential to move the economy, "to create the goods and services and the jobs which can lift the economy out of the doldrums which we have been in for several years", was made by Mr. Sam Mahfood on taking over as the new president of the Private sector Organisation of Jamaica.

Mr. Mahfood, whose election took place last Friday, said in his acceptance speech that for the private sector to achieve this objective, however, there were certain preconditions "which we will expect the Government to fulfil".

"I will not go into these in any detail at this stage," he said. "We are all very aware of what they are: the reduction of the bureaucratic encumbrances which have fettered the private sector, and so on."

"Our nation and our organisation are currently at a crossroads, and I would submit to you that what happens to both the nation and the organisation will depend to a large extent on the unity of purpose and the level of consensus that is achieved."

Outlining some of the objectives which he would like, as president, to achieve within the P.S.O.J., Mr. Mahfood said:

"The P.S.O.J., as we all accept, is an umbrella organisation embracing all of the principal components of the private sector. Yet we would be less than honest if we did not admit that we are not always able to resolve the conflicts between the interests of the manufacturer and those of commerce, nor the conflict of interests between what is perceived as big business and those of the small business sector. During my presidency, I will be guided by what is conceived as being in the national interest."

"At the same time, I would like to stress that for the private sector to have the level of impact that it has the capacity to make, unity within the sector is essential. If we do not have the unity, and what is more, if we do not seek to develop it, then the sector will fall easy prey to those who would seek to divide us the better to control us."

"Unity is not, however, an end in itself. Any of the view that the private sector as a whole has the potential to move this economy: to create the goods and services and the jobs which can lift the economy out of the doldrums which we have been in for several years."

We are all very aware of what they are, the reduction of the bureaucratic encumbrances which have fettered the private sector, and so on. But the sector itself has to have a concept of what it can do, and the contribution it can make to the economy and the unity of purpose to achieve this end.

I am also of the view that the P.S.O.J. should be a catalyst to achieve consensus within the society. There must be some goals which we regard as being above politics and which the nation as a whole must get the politicians to accept as being sacrosanct. If we cannot achieve a measure of consensus, we will be forever plagued by divisions, the dismantling and the change for the sake of change, which too many of us have come to accept as a natural part of our political process.

"I have some thoughts on what we as an organisation can do to start the process of consensus building. I expect to share these with the new executive at an early opportunity, and I hope we will then be able to develop a blueprint for a course of action which we can implement at an early date."

"One of the legacies that I have inherited from my immediate predecessor is the programme of action that he has outlined to you in his earlier address to this meeting of Council. One of the very positive aspects of this programme is the level of support that has been pledged to us by international agencies."

I am sure we all welcome this and are grateful to these agencies for the level of confidence they are displaying in the organisation.

"I would like to stress, however, that we the members of the organisation will also have to renew our commitment to the organisation, a commitment in terms of the financial resources that we provide for the organisation, and also a commitment in terms of the time and effort that we put into its operations.

"In accepting the presidency, I am pledging my time and my financial contribution. I should warn the new Executive that I expect a high level of contribution from them, and I also expect that we will create such interest in the organisation that the overall membership will also be generous in their contributions.

"I plan to create the type of structure that will involve the membership more directly in the operations of the organisation through membership on task

forces and committees which will be assigned specific responsibilities.

"My hope is that this organisation will develop such a pre-eminent position in the affairs of this country that all those who believe in the system of free enterprise will consider it their duty to become members.

"My hope, too, is that while we will continue to be concerned with the Macro-economic issues, we will pay increasing attention to some of the social issues, because it is my firm belief that the future of private enterprise in this country, and by extension, our future political directions, will depend to a large extent on how the private sector is perceived by the average Jamaican.

"What I have said today is not by any means a manifesto, or a plan of action; it represents some of my thoughts on our future course of action. The policy directions we will arrive at with your input and with your support.

Call for Government Divestiture

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jan 84 p 7

[Text]

The outgoing President of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, Mr. Roy Collister, has said he would like to see the divestment to the private sector of every State-owned corporation which it is possible for the Government to get rid of, including the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company.

Mr. Collister, who did not seek re-election to the presidency of the PSOJ,

made his comment at a meeting of the Council of the Organisation at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, last Thursday.

He said the private sector should make it a top priority to have the Government follow a policy of divestment, because even if the present Government is prepared to operate a system to State capitalism which is not unduly hostile to the private sector, a structure should not be

left in place for some future Government to use as a base to destroy the private sector.

Mr. Collister also spoke of the import licensing system. He said it was no use abolishing import licences only to replace them with import permits and foreign-exchange quotas administered by the Bank of Jamaica. He called for a genuine "free-up" of the system.

The immediate Past

President of the PSOJ referred to the present tax system. He said the Commissioner of Income Tax, assisted by his United States advisers, "was trying to enforce an inequitable tax system of a confiscatory nature."

Mr. Collister cautioned that the PSOJ, should be vigilant to ensure that the private sector is not "caught unawares by State capitalism and overwhelmed by bureaucracy."

CSO: 3298/401

PRICE INCREASES FOR FUEL, TRANSPORTATION ELICIT CONCERN

Consumers League Reaction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Dismay has been expressed by the National Consumers League at the increases in the prices of gasoline, cooking gas and electricity. Declaring that it protests strongly, what it describes as these "exorbitant price increases," the League said in a statement:

"This will certainly have a very negative effect on the economy and will cause undue hardship on all consumers but moreso on the very poor.

"While the National Consumers' League appreciates the present serious economic situation facing the nation, these new increases are bound to create an inflationary spiral and affect all consumer products.

"The League is calling on Government to take all necessary steps to mitigate the effects of these increases, especially when one considers that the recent devaluation has already sparked a new wave of price increases.

"In addition, the NCL is reminding consumers to conserve as much as possible, to plan expenses carefully putting emphasis on basic needs.

"Consumers with cars are reminded to plan their journeys, to organize car pools, and to observe all the usual rules which ensure the proper use and conservation of petrol."

Public Service's Mitigating Efforts

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Jan 84 p 13

[Text] The Jamaica Public Service Company is working on a plan to ease some of the burden of increased electricity rates from some 30,000 low-income customers, according to Managing Director, Mr. Brian Picken. It is expected that the

plan, which will seek to waive the increase on up to 10 kilowatt hours of electricity consumed, will take effect at the beginning of next month. The JPS is still examining the flat-rate system to see how economical it would turn out to be for both the company and its

customers. Explaining how the new measure would work, Mr. Picken told the Gleaner that one kilowatt hour would allow a 25-watt bulb to burn for 40 hours; therefore, a 10-kilowatt hour limit being considered would allow the same bulb to burn for 400 hours.

JPS statistics had shown that there were about 30,000 customers in the residential category who used 10 kilowatts or less electricity and they would all benefit, he said.

Mr. Picken added that the effective date of this measure would be when the first customer electricity bill arrived after February 1.

Meter-reading was being done for this month in order to make the computation for that time.

"We're trying to see how we can minimise the present increase of electricity to low-income earners as much as we can," he said.

Mr. Picken also said that although the 'crawling' one per cent a month energy charge increase had ceased at the point of announcement of the new rates, in February this energy charge would still be increased but it would be at a fixed rate.

The energy charge, he said, was billed to the customer as a result of increased debt-servicing operations and other costs which the JPS had to underwrite. This charge, Mr. Picken noted, came in five categories and according to the manner in which it was computed, some customers would pay less while others were going to pay more.

He could not say how

long the new electricity rate would hold, as the price of oil on the market could not be predicted, nor could the foreign-exchange rate of the Jamaican dollar be foretold.

Mr. Picken said that the JPS was better off financially this year than last year as "we have been keeping the debts down as low as we can". He said that there was an outstanding \$20 million owed to the company by customers, several of whom had been taken to court.

A vigorous policy was in place to look out for electricity thieves — which was being effectively run by the JPS's Irregularities Department. "We're not proud of it but this has got to be done," he said.

A great number of people have either been injured or killed as a result of shocks sustained in the process of making illegal connections to the JPS system, Mr. Picken said.

On the generating units at the JPS plants, Mr. Picken said that the Number One Old Harbour unit would be taken out for rehabilitation at the end of this month while the rehabilitation of the Number Two unit at the same plant was now in progress. The work is being carried out by the Italian firm, Ansaldo. The Number Two unit is expected to be back in

service early in March and the Number One in early May.

The rated capacity of the Number Two unit was 60 megawatts but it was operating at a reduced capacity of 35 megawatts. The Number One's rated capacity was 33 megawatts but it was only generating 25 megawatts of electricity.

On completion of the work on the Number One unit, the experts would move over to the Hunts Bay plant and take out the B6 unit for rehabilitation, he said.

Mr. Picken told the *Gleaner* that although the JPS did not intend to effect load-shedding operations, the removal of especially the B6 unit would mean that the supply of electricity would be tighter and should another unit trip out the consequence would be power-cuts.

"We are not planning load-shedding but if the units go faulty, we'd be in trouble," he said.

Tenders were already in for the purchase of two low-speed diesel units from Japan and a decision on these would be taken this month; which meant that taking into account the time for transaction and shipment, the two units would arrive in the next 24 months.

With an installed capacity of some 302 megawatts, the JPS had been able to meet a peak demand of around 240 megawatts, Mr. Picken said.

Reactions to Price Hikes

Kingston THE DAILY & SUNDAY GLEANER in English various dates

[Editorial Report] In other developments related to the recent round of price increases, THE DAILY GLEANER and THE SUNDAY GLEANER report higher bus and taxi fares and a call for an increase in the minimum wage.

On 9 January, page 2, the paper reports the start of increased bus fares in Montego Bay--up 10 cents per stage. THE SUNDAY GLEANER of 8 January, page 8, carries a column by Franklin McKnight urging an increase in the minimum wage to enable workers to meet the higher costs of petroleum products, water, public transportation and cooking gas. The column points to the "nearly 300,000 persons of working age who have no regular way to earn and who must depend on other people who are now going to find that their dollar is able to stretch far less than it could last year this time." People have "no power to bargain to strengthen themselves from the recent blows of the price increases" and "what is worse...have no hope at all that things will change or get significantly better this year."

New taxi fares in the Kingston area, says the paper on 12 January, page 1, mark "the third round of increases in transport costs." Minister of Public Utilities and Transport Pearnel Charles laid the increase directly to the rise in gasoline prices, the story notes.

Vaz on Cooking Gas

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] The Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Hon. Douglas Vaz, has rejected a request from the distributors and marketers of cooking gas for an immediate increase in profit margins, and has told them to put their house in order instead, a news release from the Jamaica Information Service said.

The Minister made the comment yesterday morning at a meeting he held with 14 top representatives of trade, at the Ministry. He repeated his view that the cooking gas issue was "the single most disgusting issue in the country" and said that as a private sector-oriented person he was ashamed of the industry.

"In my 25 years of experience in business I can't think of a sector with a worst track record with the consumer," the Minister said.

After hearing complaints about operating costs, the Minister said that the consumers could not be expected to pay for the marketing companies' inefficiency. He said he was in no mood to give higher profits for "lousy service."

Mr Vaz told the meeting that the companies should bear their own investment costs, rather than look for increased prices to cover such costs. He said that consumers were getting "rotten service" and that they were in no mood to pay more for that. On the matter of increased transportation costs faced by distributors, the Minister accepted a suggestion from one of the representatives to reexamine the formula worked out for transportation costs in the different zones without increasing the upper limit.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE NOTES RESULTS FOR 9 MONTHS OF '83

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 8 Jan 84 p 7

[Text] The following is a review of the performance of the non-traditional export sector by the Rt. Hon Hugh Shearer, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, as prepared by the Ministry.

Strong growth in the export of food products from \$151.5 million in the first nine months of 1982 to \$205.1 million in the first nine months of 1983 was an outstanding aspect of the performance of the non-traditional sector, according to the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer in his annual review of the non-traditional export sector.

This reflected the success of the emphasis placed by government on the development of the agricultural sector and the responsiveness of the nation's farmers, Mr. Shearer said.

He stated that in the Chemical sector exports grew from \$28.3 million in the first quarter of 1982 to \$35.2 million for the comparative period in 1983; and Manufactured Goods (classified chiefly by materials) increased from \$18.1 million to \$27.2 million for the same period.

The Deputy Prime Minister congratulated all those involved in the production and export of these items.

Caricom

Turning to Caricom, the Deputy Prime Minister stated that Caricom still represents the main market for manufactured items. For the period January to September 1983 Jamaican exports to Caricom stood at US\$56.3 million compared with US\$50.2 million for the same period in 1982, an overall increase of 12.1% in value.

The export performance of many sectors to Caricom, however, reflected the uncertainties that surrounded regional

trade during the year and total year figures are expected to show a decline in a number of sectors, he said.

For the first half of the year Jamaica experienced a surplus of US\$6.8 million on its balance of trade with Caricom.

This nine month performance must be seen against the background that during the first six months of 1983, total traditional and non-traditional exports decreased by 15.6% in value compared to the same period last year, contributing to 22.9% growth in the trade deficit which rose from US\$238.6 million to US\$293.2 million. This drop in export earnings was mainly the result of a 23.5% decrease in bauxite/alumina earnings as the industry continued to suffer the effects of a de-

pressed world market, he said.

More than ever, said Mr. Shearer, this emphasizes the importance of Jamaican exporters adopting a dynamic approach to Third Country market development, of the United States, the Far East, Europe and the non-Caricom Caribbean areas.

The CBI

Deputy Prime Minister Shearer pointed out that the year saw the passage into law of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act which provides Jamaican exporters with an unprecedented opportunity to sell goods duty free to the world's largest market, the United States.

He said that the JNEC had taken the initiative in preparing the export community to take full advantage of this one-way free trade opportunity, and had launched a nation-wide information programme with the cooperation of the private sector. Principal amongst these were the "CBI Seminar", "Doing Business with the USA" and "Packaging for United States Consumer Appeal". 332 members of the exporting community participated.

Links have been established with the US Department of Commerce for their 52 regional offices to collaborate with the JNEC Trade Commissioner Service, to provide a wider trade information network.

Aggressive marketing

Aggressive marketing by the JNEC in the United States resulted in \$160 million of orders placed for delivery under the CBI by the members of the American Association of Importers of Jamaican products. The majority of these orders are for Agro-industrial products.

Mr. Shearer pointed out that for these orders to be filled and for exports to grow, efficient production

and maintenance of high standards were necessary.

He commended the JNEC for putting in place a number of programmes to assist exporters to attain these ends, and urge exporters to make full use of them. "We have no time for shuffling. The time for export action is now," the Deputy Prime Minister stressed.

Highlighting JNEC programmes, the Foreign Trade Minister said:

— 52 companies in the processed food sector will benefit from the Meat Inspection Programme commenced in 1983, which is necessary to permit low cost access to enter the U.S. and Canadian markets.

— 14 food processing companies received quality control equipment during the year.

— A climatic chamber for use by furniture manufacturers to control the moisture content in lumber was acquired through the JNEC for delivery to the Bureau of Standards in March 1984.

— A well-equipped mobile laboratory, that will permit the Food Technology Institute to visit individual factories to assist in monitoring standards, was also acquired through the JNEC.

— The JNEC programme for revitalization of the ginger industry developed in conjunction with the IAS, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Ministry of Agriculture showed encouraging results. Prototypes for new machinery to speed ginger peeling and production have been designed and ginger acreages under production and exports have grown in 1983.

— 1983 also saw the publication of an Export Directory and 10,000 copies of these

have been circulated world-wide through the Trade Commissioner Service.

A special multi-lingual bulletin of Jamaican Trade opportunities was developed in conjunction with the OAS. This, Mr. Shearer said, includes details of products and packaging of products from 243 participating Jamaican firms. It will be circulated throughout Chambers of Commerce in the United States and Latin America and will be published in February 1984.

Market Research of the Bahamas was conducted and commercial information to help manufacturers enter that market prepared.

Trade Commissioner service

Mr. Shearer commended the JNEC Trade Commissioner Service for the vital role they have played in developing export opportunities and assisting businessmen, and made special mention of activities in Hong Kong, Canada, the U.S., and Europe.

He explained that in 1983 the Trade Commissioner Service was extended to Hong Kong with the appointment of Mr. Richard Dunning as Correspondent, and during the year technical assistance was provided by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council for the Jamaican furniture industry.

In Hong Kong, trade opportunities were identified for alcoholic beverages, spices and gourmet foods and an initial order placed for Jamaican cigars.

A Jamaica/Hong Kong business committee with leading entrepreneurs of both countries was established, the Foreign Minister stated, and a concise history of Jamaica/Hong Kong trading relationships and prospects for continued growth, "A Century of Partnership", was published by the JNEC.

In March a business meeting between 60 Jamaican businessmen and 40 Hong Kong businessmen was held in Miami to further trade possibilities, he said.

In Canada, Mr. Shearer said that the JNEC Trade Commission participated in five trade shows, principal of which was the Canadian National Exhibition where \$400,000 orders were taken.

Canadian market

And the Canadian market continued to hold important potential, with increases in 1983 in the Fresh Produce sector which rose by C\$1 million. Turnings to the United States of America, the Deputy Prime Minister said that the JNEC Trade Commissions in New York and Miami were preoccupied with preparation for the CBI and had an active year.

Mr. Shearer continued that JNEC Trade Commissions in the U.S.

— handled 2,200 trade enquiries and generated interest in new products.

participated in a number of trade fairs and missions, principal of which was the International Fancy Food Fair in Washington, in which seven Jamaican

Companies participated, and also the Miami Conference on the Caribbean.

— worked with the American Association of Importers of Jamaica products. It is interesting to note, said Mr. Shearer, that membership increased from 20 to 52 during the year and in meeting them he was pleased at their positive interest in Jamaican produce.

JNEC Trade Commissions in London and Bonn handled 700 trade enquiries, Mr. Shearer said. In London, the Trade Commissioner initiated 20 buyer missions to Jamaica and organized itineraries for 24 Jamaican businessmen visiting the U.K. Four government missions resulting in sharply increased interest in Jamaican clothes. Orders were also secured for processed foods in large food chains in England, he said.

Export of cocoa

In Bonn the Trade Commission has reported that export of cocoa, cut flowers and pimento increased by \$1 million over the comparable period January to June 1982, Mr. Shearer said.

He noted that Jamaica remains a major supplier of

bulk rum to Germany; and that the Trade Commissioner participated in a number of exhibitions including the Hannover Trade Fair, Europe's largest industrial show.

Within Caricom, he noted that the JNEC Trade Commissioner in Port of Spain acted as intermediary between Jamaican and other Caricom states. 284 such cases were under review.

The Corporation's training programme was remarkably successful, Mr. Shearer said, noting that 1,248 persons attended seminars and courses on exports.

JAS export

The Export for Profit Programme mounted by the JNEC in conjunction with the JAS to demonstrate which products are fit for export, received widespread support and culminated with the JNEC participation at the Denbigh Show.

Mr. Shearer commanded that Mr. Yeon Matthews, Exporter Farmer who won the JNEC Champion Exporter Award for 1982. He also commended Scott's Pre-serves who won the JAMCO Trophy for exemplary performance in export of processed food utilizing 10

In regard to Trade In-

formation he said that the JNEC Trade Library was expanded during the year and 1,317 businessmen and their representatives visited the library during the year seeking trade information, and that several new publications were issued by the JNEC including reports on international trade, the Multi-Fibre Agreement, the CBI and Caricom.

"The Trade Information Centre handled 4,971 trade enquiries; 70% of which related to agro-industrial and reflected the interest generated by Agro

Instrumental

Mr. Shearer said that during 1983 the Corporation was instrumental in the introduction of one of Jamaica's most technically advanced computer tracking systems to monitor export performance. 504 exporters were registered with the JNEC under JEMS which was developed in collaboration with TELEPRO, and is designed to provide timely export data and monitor return of export proceeds.

Pointing to the first national computer trade show, mounted by the JNEC and TELEPRO, he said that over 400 persons attended the Ocho Rios show, and seminars designed to acquaint exporters with the benefits to be derived from discriminate

use of computer systems.

In regard to Technical Assistance, he said the Corporation continued to channel technical assistance from the World Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Development Fund to the exporting community.

National Export Plan

1983 was the last year of the three-year National Export Plan prepared in 1981 by the National Export Committee chaired by the Hon. Carlton Alexander. Many of the programmes have been implemented. The Corporation is currently developing a new plan to 1986 in collaboration with the private sector.

"In October the Prime Minister established the Inter-Ministerial Commission on International Trade (IMCIT) to formulate international trade policy under the Government's Structural Adjustment Programme," Mr. Shearer stated. He further explained that the JNEC has been appointed Secretariat to the Commission which is chaired by the Prime Minister, with himself as Deputy Chairman, and highlighted the following points:

— IMCIT coordinates the development of Jamaica's overseas trade by bringing together all government bodies involved in production, investment and marketing of exports. Special concern of IMCIT is to

ensure that full advantage is taken of the CBI and other preferential treaty arrangements.

— Exporters have been making submissions to the JNEC IMCIT Secretariat of problems dealing with international trade which involve more than one agency and Ministry of Government.

— The Commission had dealt with issues relating to the U.S. Import Alert on Jamaican canned products as a result of ackee smuggling, the quality of Blue Mountain coffee, and the transfer of AMC and JETCO.

Mr. Shearer stated that in 1984 the JNEC in support of the Structural Adjustment Programme will be concentrating efforts on market development and market penetration of Third Country markets.

There will be continued close collaboration with the JEA, JAS, JMA, PSOJ and SBA to ensure that full advantage is taken of the CBI, particularly in regard to the JMA/JEA Expo in 1984 to which Trade Commissioners are inviting overseas buyers, he affirmed.

Mr. Shearer also stated that 1983 was an encouraging year and showed the resilience of the exporting community in the face of difficult odds and its determination to seize opportunities made available.

BRODERICK PUSHES CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN IN SUGAR INDUSTRY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 7 Jan 84 p 7

[Text]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, HON. DR. PERCIVAL BRODERICK, has warned the Chairmen and Board members of the National Sugar Company's six factories that as they set out to make the sugar industry viable, they must understand that they are not impervious to any charges made against them, especially if they attempt to correct the corruption that exists in the industry. He warned the Boards that they would be "dealing with powerful vested interests — ethical and non-ethical." [words missing]

there, you found that 278 gallons of rum were missing. No small man could move with that amount, since it was not a mini-bus load.

"How can you explain that within the last two weeks that a turbine at Bernard Lodge was drained of 6,000 gallons of oil valued at \$8,000?

"How do you explain the fact that when the warehouse at Marcus Garvey Drive was operating — quite loosely — that the books down there registered \$1.3 million value worth of sugar as unaccountable. How do you explain! You and I have just got to read the papers to see reference to matters before the courts, to see how lucrative is the business of hijacking the sugar on its way from the factory to the port. A vehicle carrying 20 tons of sugar at roughly \$979 per ton. That shipment is worth approximately \$20,000 and the one little truck is gone?

"And how do you account for the fact that we have to call on the consumers to continue to pay for sugar in a system that cries out for greater accountability?

"That is why I warn you, that yours will not be an easy job, because as I said before, we are not expecting any dramatic increases in production. Through-put in respect of what is in the field will not take place within a year, but where you are going to make a dramatic input is because of your approach in seeing to it that you manage a factory so that only the bare essentials are committed to expenditure."

Speaking on the make-up of the new NSC factories' Boards of Directors, Dr. Broderick said that they were not politically appointed, but rather were selected on the basis of the expertise and skills which they have. He said that the Boards represent a wide area of professional expertise.

Speaking on the terms of reference under which the Boards will operate, he said that the Board of the NSC will define the policy framework and guidelines within which each local Board will be expected to operate, but that the individual Boards will be expected to prepare a five-year development plan for each estate and submit this for the approval of the NSC Board.

The Boards of the sugar factories will also prepare and submit annually, an estimate of revenues and expenditure in respect of all operations conducted on the estate, three months before the end of each financial year; while capital and development budgets for field and factory operations must be submitted 12 months in advance of each financial year in order that proper arrangements can be made and orders placed.

In addition, each estate Board will appoint at least three sub-committees on finance, factory and field operations in the conduct of its business; and finally the Chairman of each Board will sit on the Board of NSC in order to represent the interests of various estates at the highest policy level.

On the subject of training, Dr. Broderick said that this will become very important to the Boards who will face a lack of skills at the levels of the factories and the field, as well as at the managerial and technical levels. He said that the Sugar Industry Authority has to assume this area of industry responsibility and that a Director of Training is being interviewed to put into effect a programme of training.

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO BANANA GROWERS NEED ATTENTION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Mr Noel Walker, St. Mary representative on the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, has warned that if Banana Industry authorities failed to spray bananas grown by small farmers, a serious decline in production for domestic consumption would result. This, he said, could also lead to decline in other basic food staples.

Speaking at the monthly meeting of the J.A.S. Board this week, Mr Walker said that the Banana Industry authorities had been concentrating all their spraying and other crop-care efforts on fruit grown for export. In the case of banana grown by small farmers for the domestic market, there had been no spraying, no water, and little or no extension work.

Recent research had shown that about 60,000 tons of fruit was consumed by the domestic market, and while some of this was rejected fruit from export production, much of it came from small farmers' production.

Banana Industry authorities, he said, should bear in mind that the banana was a "nursery crop" which led and fostered the cultivation of a number of other crops like coffee, cocoa, Lucea yam, Renta yam, 'minty' cocoa and other food crops--all of which contributed toward feeding the nation and helped to reduce food imports. These crops, he said, formed a potential source of import substitution.

"So that if bananas produced by the small farmer fails, it means that cocoa, coffee, Lucea yam, Renta yam, cocoa and, indeed, the whole food crop production has failed... And because of the neglect in spraying small farmers' bananas, their crop is now dying out, because the plants are under severe Leaf-Spot attack." he said.

The result of this onset of disease had been poor yields and fruit of poor quality.

The Banana Industry authorities should ensure that while they pay attention to the production of top-quality fruit in volume for export, they also extend some care to fruit produced for domestic consumption, for failure to do so would "simply mean that you will be exporting bananas to earn money to import food to feed the people."

Attention, he said, must be directed to the question of bananas consumed by the local people as a means of import substitution.

"Therefore," he concluded, "on behalf of the 150,000 small farmers out there, I urge that some thing be done urgently to save their banana crop and save them from total depression."

CSO: 3298/390

LARGE CITRUS CROPS BEING HARVESTED BY FARMERS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Jan 84 p 6

[Text] FARM, Mr., Dec. 20.

Citrus Farmers in South Manchester are now reaping very heavy crops of tangerines, ortaniques and navel oranges. The crops which started to ripen since late October, are now at their peak, and farmers are getting up to \$10 per hundred for tangerines and \$14 to \$16 per hundred for navel oranges.

Many farmers however are dissatisfied with these prices as they claim that they are selling at a loss because the higgler are getting up to \$30 per hundred in the markets in Kingston, Montego Bay and elsewhere in the Jamaica.

The tangerine crop has now taken over from the avocado pear. Farmers enjoyed a very good crop of avocado and persons who now have these pears in stock are getting up to \$10 per dozen for the variety the "lemon".

The present citrus crops will last up to late February or March, for most farmers, if there is not too much rainfall.

Also doing well in this area is the "pepper mint" plant. A large number of small farmers in South Manchester are now involved in the cultivation of pepper mint which is chiefly used as a beverage. One farmer who keeps a very large nursery in Asia, sells the plants to farmers in and around the area. Farmers from outside of the area visit this area regularly in order to purchase the mint.

One buyer from Linstead, St. Catherine, in particular said his purchases are strictly for the export market. Farmers are getting up to \$2 per lb. in the market places. But more exposure and advertising is needed for the promotion of the crop.

CSO: 3298/402

POLICE DENY CHARGES OF BIAS, HARASSMENT AGAINST PNP, WPJ

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Jan 84 p 11

[Text]

The police have denied allegations of bias and harassment against the PNP and the WPJ. A spokesman for the Police High Command told the Gleaner on Monday that the police were forming their policies without fear or favour. He said the police were not involved in any political activities and that they were not harassing anyone. He said the police were not involved in any political activities and that they were not harassing anyone. He said the police were not involved in any political activities and that they were not harassing anyone.

The Gleaner understands that the police were not involved in any political activities and that they were not harassing anyone. He said the police were not involved in any political activities and that they were not harassing anyone. He said the police were not involved in any political activities and that they were not harassing anyone. He said the police were not involved in any political activities and that they were not harassing anyone.

West Kingston areas, the security forces have detained about 180 persons in Gordon and raid operations. Up to Monday afternoon however it could not be ascertained how many had been released or charged, although several rounds of ammunition, ganja, and what is believed to be stolen goods had been seized. The processing of the detainees was not a short process, the Gleaner was told. On their part, the WPJ has accused the police of harassment. Queried about raids being made on the WPJ's office, and homes of persons connected to the WPJ recently, and some of them being detained, the spokesman for the Police High Command said they were only going where their investigations led them.

CSO: 3298/402

MANUFACTURERS URGE GOVERNMENT ACTION ON IMPORTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

The Jamaica Manufacturers' Association is urging Government to issue its policy on imports, together with the list of items requiring licences.

A statement issued yesterday by the President, Mr. Anthony Williams, said that following the Prime Minister's meeting with private-sector representatives on January 6, the Executive of the Association held meetings over the weekend with Group Chairmen and members including some from the rural areas.

As a result of these meetings, certain anomalies were noted and recommendations of the proposed new import policy were communicated to Government on January 9.

"It was our hope that the measures would have been put into effect during the current week to allow for overseas orders to be placed by manufacturers for raw materials and spare parts," the J.M.A. statement said.

This cannot be done in instances where Letters of Credit have to be established, since commercial banks will only recognise the procedure which still officially requires import licences for goods entering Jamaica.

Mr. Williams said that raw materials for the sector have been in short supply, especially since the last quarter of 1983.

"Any further delay in the issuance of an official import policy will prove detrimental to manufacturers, workers and indeed to all sectors of our economy," the statement said.

CSO: 3298/401

NEW LOCOMOTIVES DERAILED ENROUTE KINGSTON-MONTEGO BAY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Jan 84 p 16

[Text]

Derailed two Jamaica Railway Corporation trains has caused serious damage to one, sending it out of service and minor damage to the other.

The trains, which were heading for the country, were derailed on the line of Jamaica while on their way to Montego Bay from Kingston.

No passenger was injured during both incidents, which are being investigated by the JRC, according to a spokesman who confirmed the report yesterday.

The two locomotives arrived in the island last December from France and

are a part of credit and were immediately put into service a week later.

The spokesman could not give any details on the incident.

It has been reported that the derailed train was carrying a load of about 100 tons of sugar.

One report is that the cause of the derailments is the heavy sleepers on the Anchoy line, which has apparently been tampered with.

An informed source at the JRC told the Gleaner that investigation had produced the work of a derailment expert, who are employed by the JRC and this could be a case where the line was tampered with by people who wanted work.

This is a potentially dangerous act as it poses a threat to the safety and lives of passengers, the source said.

The more seriously damaged train arrived at the JRC headquarters in Kingston yesterday for repairs to its tank.

CSO: 3298/402

EXPORT CROP, RAT CONTROL PROJECTS TO GET FAO ASSISTANCE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Jan 84 p 6

[Text] Two agreements--one to assist Jamaica's preparation for the implementation of a World Bank (Assisted) Export Crops Project and another to help in the development and implementation of a National Rat Control Programme--were signed on Tuesday, between the Government of Jamaica and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, at the Ministry of Agriculture, Hope Gardens, St. Andrew.

The Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Percival Broderick, who signed on behalf of Jamaica, pointed out that the assistance from the F.A.O. was worth US\$55,000 for the Export Crops Project, and US\$13,000 for the Rat Control Programme.

"The World Bank (Assisted) Export Crops Project will provide for the rehabilitation of some 20,300 acres of export crops, these include sugar cane, banana, citrus, Blue Mountain coffee, cigar, tobacco, ornamental agriculture and vegetables", he said.

Funds from the F.A.O. will help to cover the services of a Project Manager Specialist for three months, and an Agricultural Research and Extension Specialist, for three months. Internal travel cost and the general operating supervision of the project will also be funded by the F.A.O.

Under the Rat Control Programme, the F.A.O. will help in assisting the problems posed by rats, and make recommendations for a comprehensive national programme to control the pest.

The new F.A.O. representative in Jamaica, Mr. David Wozab, signed on behalf of the F.A.O.

CSO: 3298/402

REPORT ON 1984 BUDGET SUBMISSION, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 24 Dec 83 p 12

[Text] The 1984 Budget for St. Kitts and Nevis was presented in the National Assembly this week by the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Simeon Daniel.

The Budget Session begun on Tuesday and lasted three days until after 6 O'Clock on Thursday afternoon.

This Budget, the first Budget to be produced in the period after the achievement of Independence, is completely tax free. Government has maintained its consistent policy of granting relief to its citizens by refraining from imposing any new taxes at all. The thrust of the policy and direction of the 1984 Budget is for greater self-sufficiency and increased local entrepreneurship.

The Honourable Minister of Finance declared: "Government will encourage self-employment and the establishment of small and medium-size manufacturing industries with a view to increasing industrial output not only for domestic consumption, but also for export. In line with the foregoing policy Government will establish an Advisory Committee on Investment Promotion to generate activity in the industrial sector, and we are at present studying a proposal for the establishment of an Industrial Development Corporation."

Mr Daniel said that in the 1984 Estimates Recurrent Expenditure is \$65,894,030, Recurrent Expenditure is \$54,850,905, Capital Estimates are \$9,515,761.

Mr Daniel stressed that the Government intends to continue its programme of economic development so that the national income will increase to such an extent that all of Government's needed revenue could be raised and no new tax measures are introduced in this Budget.

Valuable contributions to the Budget Debate were made by the members on the Government side of the House, in support of the Tax-free Budget proposals. The Opposition members one by one made their token attacks on the Government and then promptly vacated their Bench, declining to show up for the final session of the Debate when the Minister of State and CARICOM Affairs the Honourable Richard Caines, and the Prime Minister, the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, dealt with and demolished their feeble attacks in grand style.

The Prime Minister, who commented that it is no wonder to him that Labour was so hopeless, when one listened to their random, and indiscriminate criticisms, stressed that this tax-free post-independence budget is born out of a strategy which has been consistently people-oriented.

The Prime Minister noted that though his government of less than 4 years was baptised in the fire of the international recession which proliferated in 1980, he and his colleagues have emerged like Daniel from the Lion's Den.

Dr Simmonds quoted from current employment figures from the Pond's Industrial Site to show that employment at six of the major factories there have either risen significantly or are about to rise as a result of physical expansion of their plant.

Prime Minister Simmonds pointed to the tremendous increase in construction projects all around the Island of St. Kitts to show the creation of actual employment through a stimulation of both the Private and Public Sectors.

The School-Building Programme, the Day-Care Projects, the Condominium Developments at Frigate Bay, the Low-Cost Houses built by Government, the 2 million dollars in loans provided by the Development Bank to Small Industries and Prospective Homeowners, were also cited as examples of the creation of work and the filtering of money down to the work force of this country.

The Honourable Simeon Daniel in winding up the Debate, reduced a spate of fault-finding by the then absent Opposition to five points, which he then easily disposed of by reference to the practical solutions proposed.

The sitting ended with the Prime Minister wishing the country at large a Merry Christmas, a Trouble-Free Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

CSO: 3298/392

PAPER ASSAILS' HARASSMENT, AGITATION' BY LABOUR PARTY

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 7 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial: "A Day of Reckoning"]

[Text] When the Government set aside a period of public debate and discussion as the People's Action Movement 1980 Manifesto had promised to do, the Opposition Labour Party seized upon the occasion as a Heaven-sent opportunity to intensify their campaign of harassment and agitation in this country.

Labour set about organising a systematic progression of unrest and protest among its supporters and sympathisers. House to house campaigning, pamphleteering, secret meetings, public meetings, marches, processions and demonstrations--the whole gamut of destabilisation tactics was fallen upon with reckless purpose. The objective of the Labour leaders was not discussion of any White Paper. It was stated by the Big Chief himself, Lee Moore, to be the removal of the Government without elections--a commitment of the entire platform of Labour to a desperate plan of subversion and anarchy.

One Labour platform speaker openly told his listeners that they should not be worried about getting into trouble with the law, in the pursuit of their nefarious and unconstitutional objectives. After all, said the fellow, he was there and the trouble-makers could bring their Court summonses to him.

A series of incidents took place in St. Kitts. A lady lawyer was wounded in the face as she sat peacefully in her parked car. A public "Meet the People" meeting being conducted by a panel of top Government officials was thrown into pandemonium by a heckler who subsequently kicked two policemen in the execution of their duty. The Supreme Court House, Law Library, Judge's Chambers, Registry, and Public Library Building was burnt to the ground in a foreday morning act of arson.

As these wide-ranging incidents of violence were mounting to a nerve-racking crescendo, two platform speakers in the rampaging Labour camp were arrested and charged criminally. Labour then went underground, (temporarily).

To our vast surprise, THE DEMOCRAT has learnt that now the preliminary inquiry into the said criminal charges has been taken in hand, every kind of stalling tactic is being fabricated to avoid the day of reckoning.

The same Constitution whose outline was being protested against in their period of agitation is now being relied upon to dodge the consequences of their doctrine of upheaval. A section of the Constitution which is intended to speed up the hearing of criminal cases is somehow being hidden behind for the purpose of delaying a trial in these matters. What kind of sense is it to urge that a preliminary inquiry which is in actual progress should be interrupted on the ground that your right to a trial within a reasonable time is being violated. Surely that right is meant to be protected against prosecutors who are not interested in prosecuting, in order to compel them to prosecute or withdraw. It cannot be meant to stop a case that is being heard.

Those labour speakers made a bed of thorns for the government to lie on. But now they are begging not to be made to lie on it themselves.

CSO: 3298/392

SIMMONDS NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE NOTES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 7 Jan 84 pp 4, 11

[Excerpts of Prime Minister Simmonds' radio and TV New Year's address on 1 January 1984]

[Excerpts] My Fellow Citizens:

Today January 1st, 1984 is a significant and auspicious date in the calendar of our New Nation. The first day of January is always significant, as it rings in the New Year with its challenges, opportunities and decisions for self-improvement.

The Development of Our People

Our women have not been forgotten. Their equality has been enshrined in our New Constitution. In addition there has been practical expression to this equality in that their ability to earn a living is no longer being jeopardised merely by pregnancy.

From the very early stages of this administration of the people's Action Movement and the Nevis Reformation Party, we have placed great emphasis on the development of our people. This emphasis is well reflected, for example, in our unprecedented levels of training for all categories of workers in the public and private sectors. We want to help our people to help themselves, and in order to arrive at this goal, we recognise that we have to provide people with the means to improve their skills and their abilities. Since the commencement of our term of office, every civil servant has been exposed to the opportunity for some level of in-service training.

The Tourism Course in Hotel Catering which was so successful, ended with the Award of Certificates of Competence to some 180 of our people. We have funded courses in Agriculture, in Management Studies, Health Education, Land Surveying, Vegetable Crop Production. We sent 17 youths from St. Kitts and Nevis to Venezuela on scholarships to study various courses in Agriculture. Right now we are offering courses here, in this country, with the assistance of expertise from the Humber College of Canada, for persons interested in acquiring skills in automotive mechanics, refrigeration, air conditioning, building and construction, electronics and electrical appliances.

Our Concern for People

In a period of less than 4 years this Government has constructed low-cost housing projects in East Basseterre, Cayon, Old Road, Sandy Point, Challengers and Conaree and the Gardens Family Apartments in Central Basseterre are fast nearing completion, making a total of 100 houses and 36 apartments provided by Government's Public Housing Schemes. In addition, the Development Bank which we have set up has provided nearly 2 million dollars for private housing ventures. Our Education Policy has started with pre-schoolers, with a programme of Day Care Centre construction that has erected Community Nurseries in several different areas of this nation. This has been buttressed by a School Feeding Programme which at present caters for 2,000 Primary-Age Children in 8 schools daily. It provides 5-12 year olds with a balanced nutritional lunch at no cost to the parents.

My Government Is People-oriented

Fellow Citizens, I say that my Government is people-oriented, and committed to improving the quality of life of our citizens. In the area of employment, we have created conditions in which workers are now receiving more money for the work they do. Wages in the Sugar Industry are significantly higher now than they were 4 years ago. The abolition of Personal Income Tax, has had the effect of generating a tremendous increase in Personal Savings and stimulating Private Enterprise. We have paid out during the last 3 years over 10 million dollars in back pay and 40-50 percent increases in the salaries of all Civil Servants, whose number exceeds 2,000 persons.

More Jobs Have Been Created

Our thrust to attract industry, has, despite a number of false claims to the contrary, borne fruit. More jobs have been created on the Industrial Site.

A New Breed of Person

In our recent 1984 Budget Session, which we succeeded in presenting in December in spite of the eventfulness of 1983, we stressed our definite policy of seeking to create a new breed of person, a small farmer, who would be able to utilise his own industriousness and enterprise to produce for his own needs, and the needs of our nation. We want to develop more agro-based industry and for local consumption. By fostering specific projects centering around the use of local raw materials such as cotton, cotton seed, copra and coconut, we can exploit our natural resources, and assist in the process of economic diversification.

Visit to the Republic of Korea

My recent State Visit to the Republic of Korea provides an excellent example of the broadening of our vision of the world to envisage a beneficial relationship of cooperation with a country on the opposite side of the earth.

Trip to Taiwan

My trip to Taiwan, the Republic of China, was the culmination of a move to establish diplomatic links which began late in 1980. This recent mission was a major success, and provided this country with over 8 E.C. million dollars in credit and grant facilities. Some of the grant funds have been earmarked for a livestock project in St. Kitts and so an agricultural project in Nevis. The documentation on these projects is still being prepared. Sometimes many of you do not fully appreciate how these International Missions can impact upon your lives. I consider it important that you the people should feel and recognise the impact of our foreign policy.

Part of the aid programme from Taiwan is a loan of 1 million U.S. dollars i.e., 2.7 million E.C. dollars. That loan is expected to materialise this month. 1 million E.C. dollars of this will be added to some of the funds realised from the sale of the Royal St. Kitts Hotel, in a down-payment for the sugar lands. This will help the Government to implement its policy of providing land to you for farming and other enterprises, providing low income housing and thus giving you a real stake in this Independent Nation. The major portion of 1.7 million E.C. dollars which remain will be used for housing, payments to workers, and community projects for the Youth of the Country. In this regard, roughly 700,000 will go towards the completion of the Gardens Housing Project.

Sugar Workers of This Country

The Sugar Workers of this country have benefited in full measure from the Government's generosity when we had it to give, and have been understanding and supportive during the leaner times that have been befalling sugar industries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. My Government has paid to the workers money from some of the Special Funds like the Price Stabilisation and Sugar Rehabilitation Fund. We have, in essence, borrowed money from National Bank and thus increased NACO's overdraft there in order to keep people employed in the industry. Lest anyone doubt this, let me remind you that in 1980 and 1981 NACO's wages and benefits alone came to more than the total money earned by NACO--reaching as high as 50% more in 1981, so that the money from NACO's overdraft has consistently been going into the workers' pockets.

\$750,000 Goatwater for Sugar Workers

However, Government recognises that sugar workers did not receive Goat Water last year, but in spite of that, most of them appreciated the situation and gave excellent service in reaping the crop. Therefore, Government has decided to use a part of the loan negotiated with the Taiwanese Government to make a special payment of Goat Water to the Sugar Workers, 750,000 dollars i.e. 3/4 of a million dollars of this money will be used to pay a Goat Water of 5% of wages earned in 1983 to the Sugar Industry workers of this country. Those who worked diligently from the start of Crop and earned much will obviously get more than those who did not work diligently and therefore earned less. It is always good to work and earn money when it is there to be made.
[paragraph as published]

SIMMONDS ANNOUNCES PREHARVEST SUGAR BONUS FOR WORKERS

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 7 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] In a surprise announcement made by Prime Minister the Honourable Dr Kennedy Simmonds on New Year's Day 1984, it has been declared that a Goat Water Bonus will be paid by government to the Sugar Industry Workers before the start of the 1984 sugar harvest.

Three-quarters of a million dollars have been pinpointed for the payment of this windfall, which will be placed into the hands of all sugar workers who worked in the last sugar crop. It is estimated that there are approximately 4,000 NACO workers on the field side, and about 900 SSMC workers at the sugar factory, and each one will receive this incentive money at the rate of 5% (five percent) of their in-crop earnings in 1983.

THE DEMOCRAT has been reliably informed that the Prime Minister's Goat Water announcement has stunned the Opposition Labour Party/Union because Labour has been desperately planning, just as they planned and schemed in 1982 and 1983, to make reckless mischief out of a Goat Water issue. Readers of this newspaper will remember how last year the Labour Party played their now usual cat-and-mouse game of politics with the sugar negotiations while running up and down the country telling sugar workers not to work unless they were paid Goat Water.

The Prime Minister has repeatedly noted that the Goat Water Bonus is and always has been an ex gratia payment which has depended upon the totality of Government's sugar revenues. In 1982, following a bumper Goat Water payment the previous year, Government was confronted with a loss by NACO in 1981 of \$18.4 million. There were clearly no proceeds from the Industry, and Government in fact had to put money from other sources just to keep the Industry going and protect the livelihood of the Sugar Workers.

Last year and this year again conditions in the Industry did not provide any leeway for paying a Goat Water Bonus out of the sugar revenues. However, the Prime Minister's first Independence Diplomatic Mission to the Far East has reaped a rich reward for the Nation's 5,000 sugar workers. The \$750,000.00 which is being set aside for this precrop incentive is part of a U.S. \$1 million loan by the Government of Taiwan. No Goat Water was paid last year. The sugar workers listened attentively and with due consideration

as Prime Minister Simmonds outlined the "hard facts" of NACO's overdraft. So much so that they ignored Labour's agitated strike-call and went out to work. This year sugar workers are naturally overjoyed at being made the beneficiaries of the Government's foreign policy relations, and the news reaching us is that morale is high and the start of the 1984 Sugar Crop is eagerly awaited.

CSO: 3298/392

DETAILED REVIEW OF LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE WITHIN SLP

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 10 Dec 83 National Day Supplement pp 15, 22

[Text] The island's oldest political organisation, the main Opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) finally resolved a knotty problem over its leadership in late August and now seems set for a return to full participation in St. Lucia's political life after more than four years of bitter division and a chaotic shortened tenure of power.

And the settling of the issue of who should lead the SLP appears to have silenced for some considerable time at least, the party's very vocal left wing which had dominated its politics for nearly a decade.

A party convention in Vieux Fort that once was a major stronghold of the SLP ended on August 28 in disaster for the left, led by former leader and Cabinet Minister Peter Josie, whose designs on the party's premier position escaped into thin air when he failed to get support for a resolution which sought to amend the SLP constitution and accommodate his bid for the job of political leader.

For more than two decades, the SLP, which was first swept into the seat of power in 1951--the year of adult suffrage--has been plagued by challenges to its leadership, a running contentious issue between centre-right politicians and those on the left. The most bitter was that between former Prime Minister Allan Louisy and his deputy, George Odium.

Disaster

This time, it was Josie against Neville Cenac, younger brother of former Prime Minister Winston Cenac and the man who became Parliamentary Leader of the Opposition after the 1982 election disaster which saw the SLP's strength in the House reduced from 12 to 520, within the space of three years.

Josie, who had been specially selected by the SLP and given the task of getting the party into fighting shape for the poll, was one of the casualties of the UWP landslide. And under the SLP's constitution, the fact that he was now out of Parliament ruled him out for the position of political leader.

Josie's siding George Odium during most of the 1979-81 power struggle against former Prime Minister Louisy never went down well with the SLP conservatives

even though they believed that he was the best man to lead the party into the elections and in fact threw their weight behind him in the attempt to reclaim the SLP's lost glory.

After the election defeat, a party convention to choose a new political leader was boycotted by the Josie faction and Cenac was easily elected. Josie's group held their own convention, called in the name of the party, but in a move to abide by the constitution, Josie refrained from seeking election as "leader" and settled for the position of deputy behind Cecil Lay, the SLP's other M.P. Both factions thus claimed to be the real Labour Party. Heated words were exchanged, and Cenac accused Josie of "political piracy" in holding an "unauthorised" convention. At one point Josie even threatened to take the dispute before the Courts for a ruling, but this never materialised.

Earlier this year, both factions announced that efforts were being made a reconciliation and a convention was being planned to resolve the leadership issue once and for all.

Before a packed hall on August 28, Josie and Cenac went at each other as they addressed the 300-odd delegates and made their bids for the leadership. Josie's main thrust, however, was his attempt to get the delegates to change the party's constitution dealing with the position of political leader so that he could contest.

Josie told the convention: "The main cause of many of the party" problems in the past has centred around the question of who should lead. I for one am of the view that it is time we resolve this problem once and for all."

He listed six qualities which, he argued, an SLP leader should possess and left no doubt in any one's mind that as far as he was concerned, Cenac did not possess these qualities: loyalty, courage, an understanding of local and foreign political affairs, honesty, vision and faith in God.

But his biggest plea, however, was for a change in the SLP's rules regarding the selection of a political leader. He urged the delegates: "If a law stands in your way, change that law. The only laws we cannot change are those handed down to Moses for the salvation of our souls. All man-made laws are subject to change.

Cenac, one of St. Lucia's most colourful political figures in recent years, had publicly expressed the view that those responsible for the SLP's recent disgrace--Josie included--should pay the price.

Now, addressing the convention, he quickly went into the attack: "A lot of people are concerned about who leads us. I have always been concerned about WHAT leads us."

Snakes and Ladders

And again: "Politics is like a game of snakes (pause)...and ladders, and sometimes I think it is more snakes than ladders. In the game of snakes and

ladders, as in politics, you may be at the bottom of the ladder today, and the next day find yourself at the top. And in the same manner as you got to the top of the ladder, you may find yourself, because of your own conduct, in the jaw of the snake and then you have to descend the ladder. You cannot abolish the rules of snakes and ladders to suit anybody."

Then came a vicious jab: "I confess before God and man that I have never served two political masters in my life," an obvious reference to Josie siding with Odlum in the power struggle with Louisy while holding Ministerial office under Louisy.

Cenac declared that the SLP was perhaps the only political party in the world that was "committed" to destroying its leaders, not by outstanding performances by the antagonists, he said, "but by slander, intrigue and plotting around every street corner."

At the closed session, Josie failed to secure the mandatory two-thirds majority among the delegates seeking a change to the party's constitution. When that fell through, a group he and his supporters withdrew from the convention.

Senate

It could not have been an easier walkover for the conservatives who proceeded to fill all the key positions on the executive. Recalled into service was former Senate vice president Charles Augustin, one of the party's founder members, who was elected Chairman. Former Leader Kenneth Foster was made Cenac's deputy and Evans Calderon was re-elected to his old post of Secretary. Both were Ministers in the last SLP government.

Josie, his main supporter--former Communications Minister Remy Lesmond--and others backing him will however remain on the party's Central Executive thanks to the provision of the constitution which allows election candidates to join the SLP hierarchy. But it is clear that their influence will be minimal.

Cenac has let it known that the SLP will be a very disciplined party from now on, which can only mean that should the Josie faction attempt to rekindle the flames of rivalry, they could face expulsion.

Josie, however, does not appear about to risk being kicked out of the party. At the convention, he reiterated his often-stated loyalty to the SLP, a loyalty which he says was forcefully demonstrated in 1981 when he opted to remain in the party rather than go along with Odlum, at the time of his breakaway.

The fact that Josie still commands much support in the SLP is another factor in his favour. He believes it is only a matter of time before his fortunes start changing.

That the new SLP executive includes some of the figures who are generally believed to have contributed to the party's recent disgrace in office does not bother Cenac who has often expressed the view that the only real black

mark on the SLP's book was the Odlum-Louisy power struggle. He has often down played allegations of corruption and other misbehaviour made against members of the ill-fated government.

Future

The emergence of several new faces within its ranks--including that of prominent businessman and cricket administrator Julian Hunte--is another encouraging factor. Hunte has the advantage of knowing both other party leaders--Compton and Odlum--close up. He was a former member of the UWP and later of Odlum's short-lived St. Lucia Labour Action Movement (SLAM) which folded up after mere months in the early 1970's. A former Mayor of Castries, Hunte is considered good leadership material for the future.

Labour's immediate plans, according to party sources, include the preparation of a programme for presentation to the electorate. It is expected to outline the policies which the party would implement should it ever be called upon to form the government. A special conference of delegates to consider the party's programme is scheduled for February.

CSO: 3298/394

SMALL BUSINESSMEN CALL FOR GOVERNMENT POLICY ON FOREIGNERS

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 10 Dec 83 p 5

[Text] The Small Business Association has called on the Government to establish a clear policy on the operations of foreign businessmen in St. Lucia.

The SBA's statement comes in the wake of the alleged violation by a foreigner of the terms of a permit given him by the Government to work here. Although the government subsequently withdrew the permit of Mr Murlindhar Tekchandany, Labour Minister Clendon Mason has announced that the businessman had requested that the Government reconsider its decision.

Accused

The SBA President Stephenson Anjus said his organisation was wrongly being accused of involvement in moves to get Mr Tekchandany, operator of the Starlite shop of Jeremie Street out of the country.

He said yesterday that for some time now the S.B.A. had been discussing with Government the need to develop a policy relating to the development of the private sector and the status of small business within the framework of the private sector, and the broad development of the national economy. It was the view of the Association that a section of the private sector must be reserved for nationals of this country, he said, adding:

The S.B.A. welcomes meaningful foreign investment, particularly the type which provides significant employment opportunities for St. Lucians. The sector which requires the greatest boost from foreign capital is the manufacturing sector and we believe that any policy developed by the Government should place foreign investment in that perspective.

Therefore when the S.B.A. was informed of plans to allow Mr Tekchandany to operate a simple buying and selling business in St. Lucia, the Association moved immediately to re-emphasize its basic philosophy concerning foreigners operating business locally. In a letter to the Ministry of Labour, the Association pointed out that it was of the view that if Mr Tekchandany was allowed to open this sort of business in St. Lucia, such action would constitute an act of irresponsibility on the part of Government and disregard for those locals who were involved in similar operations and who had kept their doors open in the worst of economic times.

"It is important to place on record that at the time that the Association moved, the Starlite Shop had not started operating and consequently Mr Tekchandany's price structure still unknown to the members of this Association. Therefore when certain persons accuse our members of chasing the gentleman in question out of the island because of his prices, I want to establish that this is totally false and that the Association's position is based purely on a broad principle which it had 'been discussing with government for quite some time."

CSO: 3298/393

BANK REPORTS ON ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE FOR '82-'83 FISCAL YEAR

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 24 Dec 83 p 3

[Text]

ST. LUCIA'S economic performance in the 1982-83 fiscal year is reviewed in the annual report of the East Caribbean Currency Authority (now the East Caribbean Central Bank) which has recently been published.

According to the report, Gross Domestic Product data indicate that the St. Lucian economy grew by 1.6% in real terms in 1982 following growth of 2.3% in the previous year. The major areas of increased growth were the government sector (17.4%), agricultural sector (12.5%) and the manufacturing sector (13%). With the completion of the first phase of an oil transshipment and storage terminal, there was a substantial decline in construction activity, 23% in real terms, which was mainly responsible for the lower rate of growth in 1982 compared with 1981.

Total exports in 1982 amounted to \$112.3m approximately the same level as in the previous year, while the overall level of imports fell 5.5% to \$328.7m reducing the trade deficit from \$235.7m to \$216.4m.

IMPROVEMENT

There was a moderate improvement in agricultural exports. Bananas which in 1982 comprised 38% of the value of total exports increased by 6.6% to \$42.2m. With the fluctuations in the Green Market Price received for bananas during the year the basic price paid to farmers varied from 13.5 cents per pound at the beginning of the year to 21 cents at mid-year and then fell to about 14 cents by year end. The value of refined coconut oil exports increased by 83% to \$7.1m, as the coconut industry made substantial recovery from the effects of hurricane damage in 1980, however production of coconuts is still only about 41% of the pre-hurricane output.

Except for clothing which showed a 7.6% increase in its export value most other manufacturing exports did not perform as well as in 1981. Margarine exports fell from \$3.2m to \$1.4m while exports of paper board used mainly for the boxing of bananas in the Windward Islands, fell 6.2% to yield \$14.2m. There was also a slight drop in production in the electronic industry, which may have been affected by the recession in the United States.

Stay-over visitors to St. Lucia increased 2.2% in 1982 compared with a decline of 11.8% in 1981. Approximately 64.5% of visitors were accommodated in the country's 45 hotels and guest houses. Based on data on the intended length of stay, some 50.3% of visitors remained for a period in excess of one week. The Canadian market was the largest source of visitors accounting for 19.6%, followed closely by the United Kingdom 19% and other Caribbean countries and the United States with 17.2% and 16.3% respectively. St. Lucia's cruise ship business recovered substan-

tially in 1982, visitors increased by 14,878 after falling dramatically in the previous year from 59,042 to 18,934.

On a year over year basis the retail price index in St. Lucia rose 0.4% in 1982 compared with 9.5% in 1981. The factors giving rise to this negligible increase in the price index were the food sub-index which recorded a decline of 1.4% and housing which showed no change. These two categories account for about 65% of the weighting of the consumer basket.

Reviewing the performance of central government finances, the anticipated increase of \$58.2m in recurrent revenue for fiscal 1982/83 did not materialise. Instead the revised estimates indicate an increase of only 10%, the shortfall reflecting an over estimation of the yield from the new tax measures introduced in fiscal 1982/83.

For the fiscal year 1983/84, a surplus of \$9.0m is estimated. This is to be achieved through an increase in recurrent revenue of 7%, a 10% reduction in current expenditure, including a cut in the salaries of all Ministers; effective management and restraint of expenditure in all government departments. Total recurrent revenue is estimated at \$110.0m to include new revenue yields from minor adjustments to the tax system (such as a stamp duty being restored to 7% instead of the present 5%) and a fee of \$10.00 for the registration of bicycles. Recurrent expenditures is projected at \$101.0m.

PUBLIC DEBT

The growth of the external public debt (direct and guaranteed) incurred primarily by public utilities averaged about 24% per annum during 1979-1981, with a debt service ratio of about 1% of exports. In 1982/83, debt service payments increased only marginally but are expected to continue to increase during 1983/84, on account of larger amortization and interest payments becoming due.

A review of the commercial banking activity over the year ended March 1983, reveals a slowdown in the rates of growth of the major components of Assets and Liabilities. Total deposits increased by 5.8% to \$222m and credit extended by 7.0% to \$213.7m compared with increases of 9.3% and 11.1% for the respective components in the previous year. In terms of the distribution of net credit, the largest single increase of \$10.2m was allocated to tourism reflecting an increase emphasis on the expansion of this sector. Of major significance was the decline of \$8.2m to the manufacturing sector. The loans to deposit ratio continues to be very high and at the end of the review period was 96% compared with 95.1% at the end of the previous year.

BANANA PROSPECTS TERMED PROMISING DESPITE SETBACKS

EEC Emergency Aid

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 17 Dec 83 p 22

[Text] The Commission of the European Communities recently approved a financial allocation of 220,000 ECUs (EC\$520,000) as a grant to the Government of St. Lucia.

This grant is provided through the Emergency Aid Programme of the Lome Convention, and it is to provide assistance to those banana growers in St. Lucia who were affected by the wind storms which struck St. Lucia on 19 and 20 September 1983.

Financial assistance will be given to those families whose banana farms were heavily affected by the storm and the allocation will be to pay for the labour to rehabilitate the farms.

This was announced by Mr Jack Broadhurst, Agricultural Adviser of the Commission of the European Communities in Barbados.

Disappointment for Workers

Castries CRUSADER in English 24 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Banana Workers throughout the Island were sorely disappointed that monies promised by Government for the rehabilitation of bananas destroyed in a recent windstorm had not been forthcoming.

Banana farmers were assured by the Government that such monies would be available before Christmas.

Sources close to the industry report that the Agency providing the funds had asked the St. Lucia Government to pay the individual farmers from local funds which would be repaid by the Agency. Unfortunately the Government is unable to find such funds and consequently the banana farmers cannot be paid as promised.

The farmers are grumbling loudly but have not yet agreed to make public protests as they had done under a Labour administration when they felt that the stabex funds were insufficient.

Growers Association Outlook

Castries THE WORKERS VOICE in English 31 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Sharon Williams]

[Text]

THE St. Lucia Banana Growers Association (SEBGA) has said that despite natural disasters to the industry this year, St. Lucia can look to 1984 with renewed confidence in the industry.

Acting General Manager of the association, Mr. John Barrett said that the association hopes to produce 63,000 tonnes of the fruit next year, "but" this is subject to unforeseen circumstances.

Despite trouble to the industry this year, which came in the form of various blowdowns twice this year, the industry was still able to ship 55,320 tonnes out of the island valued at EC\$2,889,897. This is the highest tonnage shipped since 1980, the association says.

This figure also indicates a 25% increase over the fruit exported in 1982 and exceeds the target projected by the SEBGA earlier this year.

According to Mr. Barrett, the association had expected the total tonnage for 1983 to be 47,000 tonnes, but in six months revised that figure to 55,000 tonnes. "We didn't fall too short of that especially considering the blow to the industry this year."

In January, high winds caused damage to the crop, affecting 1056 acres of land, causing a significant loss of

10% of the existing fruit. Rehabilitation to farmers totalled EC\$1.5m.

Eight months later, high winds again caused blowdowns resulting in more serious damage to the industry with the island losing 37% of the fruit on a total of 4083 acres. Rehabilitation costs rose to EC\$6 million.

With the recent renegotiation of the WINBAN - Geest contract, Mr. Barrett said that growers are expected to receive approximately a 2 1/2% increase per tonne in benefits.

He added that the association was still negotiating with suppliers to reduce prices of inputs to farmers. "We expect a small reduction in the price of fertilizer in the first six months of next year."

Meanwhile the association is confident of further increases in banana output for next year. According to a statement released by the SEBGA, a major effort has to be made to improve the quality of bananas to bring direct benefits to growers.

The association has adopted a slogan for next year: "Quality sells our bananas" to be adopted by all growers.

CSO: 3298/394

PAPER SCORES SITUATION INVOLVING WATER AUTHORITY 'SABOTAGE'

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 24 Dec 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Water Saboteurs"]

[Text]

LAST weekend, several areas in and around Castries suffered a water crisis as a result of what the Central Water Authority says was tampering with its facilities at various installations.

This came in the wake of the protracted negotiations which have been on for well over a year between the CWA and the National Workers' Union [NWU] which represent's the Authority's workforce.

The latest that we understand is that the dispute is to be settled by an Arbitration Tribunal, because after more than a year the two parties showed no tendency towards reaching a solution.

But what of the water crisis? What of the illegal tampering of the Authority's facilities? There is little doubt that employees of the CWA, as a form of pressure, with or without the connivance of the NWU, were responsible for interfering with the Authority's plant and equipment to the extent that water supplies to innocent consumers had to be interrupted for several days thus causing undue and unwarranted hardship.

As far as we know, such acts are not part of normal industrial relations practices even though some Unions here may think so. Neither is it the first time that disputes involving the NWU have been marred by strongarm tactics of that nature. The Union's record in this area is not one of which it could be proud.

The ironical thing is that those responsible for tampering with the CWA's installations will get away with it. This is the way things go in St. Lucia. They will get away with it to repeat their illegal acts at another time. And St. Lucia seems helpless in all this.

The fact that under the laws of St. Lucia water is an essential service doesn't matter. Who cares about laws anyway, when few seem prepared to enforce them.

In saying all this, we cannot but question the security measures at the Authority's installations. Do they exist? And if they do, are they adequate?

Water is a precious commodity. Are we to believe that the Central Water Authority is so lax in its function of providing such a valuable service to people, or that its security at these plants is so poor as to allow people to get in there not at one, but at several such installations and tamper with its facilities?

If this can happen, then we must ask the question: How easy is it for intruders and saboteurs such as those who were so active last week, to gain access to the Authority's drinking water supplies?

This newspaper has spoken very often about the question of security. It appears that it is an area which St. Lucia — even some of the highest authorities in the country — tends to take lightly. We don't take precautions to prevent disaster, we only react when disaster strikes. We do hope the CWA gets the message.

If people can get into a water plant to commit acts of sabotage, then anything can happen, and we must let those criminals know that we will not stand for it, by providing the manpower and the equipment necessary to deter them.

If a trade union and a company cannot reach a settlement around the conference table, the alternative can never be to sabotage its property. Someone has to stand up and tell the vandals so.

PLP PAINTS GLOOMY PICTURE OF 1983, FORECAST FOR 1984

Odlum Christmas Message

Castries CRUSADER in English 24 Dec 83 p 1

[Text]

Progressive Labour Party Leader George Odlum said today that Christmas 1983 is beset with dark clouds. In a Christmas statement Mr. Odlum said:

Christmas 1983 is clouded over by the events of Grenada in which our Leaders have undermined the sovereignty and security of small states and exposed St. Lucia and others to the possibility of invasion and occupation by expansionist powers. We have to live as a nation with the thought that our Prime Minister's action has cost Grenadians their lives but more than that their Independence and Freedom.

Grenada apart, Christmas 1983 is marred by a rapid deterioration in the economic life of St. Lucia. Our people are jobless and penniless, our nation is hopeless and without direction, our Leaders are clueless and ruthless.

St. Lucians face Christmas 1983 under the cloud of Reagan's Arms Build-up in St. Lucia and the dangerous manipulation of our Police Force by the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States. St. Lucians are no longer free to mobilise, free to express, free to change their government

Water Authority on the subject of a new labour agreement had broken down. The Minister claimed that the negotiations had been in process at domestic level for over one year.

Both the Labour Commissioner and the Minister had tried to settle the dispute and now the Minister has decided to impose a Tribunal to bring the matter democratically. We must fight in the New Year to restore our basic freedoms even in the face of Reagan's guns.

Christmas 1983 is the only Christmas in which the name of St. Lucia is black in the International community and from people all over the world for propping up Imperialism and Neo-colonialism. World opinion has written off St. Lucia as being a traitor to the cause of emergent Third World countries.

We hope that despite these black clouds over Christmas our people can find the serenity to reflect on positive Christian values which would promote their struggle for Liberation in the New Year

Minister of Labour Clendon Mason today released a statement informing the public that negotiations between the National Workers Union and the Central

ter to a final settlement. The Minister has written to the Union and the Water Authority requesting that each of them nominate two persons from whom one would be selected (by the Minister) to represent the respective organisations before the Tribunal. A Chairman will also be appointed by the Minister in consultation with the two organisations

The workers of the Central Water Authority agree that the negotiations broke down on what they termed "the stubbornness of the Water Authority" in considering a new classification and wage scale for the workers.

National Workers Union President Tyrone Maynard was reluctant to comment on the negotiations but the workers themselves expressed concern that the Tribunal might just be a trick to frustrate their legitimate demands

Dire Predictions for New Year

Castries CRUSADER in English 31 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Those who read the political tealeaves at the end of 1983 must have been perplexed at Prime Minister Compton's Christmas message. He confidently predicted that 1984 will be better and that he will make every effort to handle unemployment in the New Year.

We are accustomed to these bland statements by the Prime Minister. St. Lucians have come to realise that when the Prime Minister gazes into the political crystal-ball he only sees what he wants to see and what he hopes will happen. These forecasts are unrelieved by any facts or statistical data or any intimate knowledge of economic trends.

St. Lucians standing on the brink of 1984 cannot help but be apprehensive. In 1984 will be dread!

We have just come through the rigours of 1983 during which our people endured a persistent depression and economic downturn which has forced many families to live perilously near the breadline. A number of young and promising St. Lucian businessmen have gone bankrupt and have left St. Lucia to seek their fortunes abroad. Technicians and professional men are abandoning ship and sneaking out to work overseas.

Suddenly our Prime Minister has decided that he would exert all his energy at handling the unemployment problem. Why now? Surely our Prime Minister must remember that he fought the 1982 elections on the basis that he would tackle unemployment in 1982 and later in 1983? Was he side-tracked by the Libyan affair and the Grenada invasion? Or were these merely smoke-screens to hide the government's inability to provide the milk and honey which he promised?

Trinidad's Prime Minister warned his people that this might be the last Christmas that they could celebrate because there are hard times ahead for his oil-rich country. But not so for St. Lucia! Our Prime Minister forecasts an economic upturn. Things will be better in 1984.

In fact, the mood and temper of our society is enigmatic as we step into the portals of the New Year. The arms buildup in St. Lucia and the menace of combat troops parading in lorry-loads under the guidance of American Marines, is a disturbing factor in the normally placid St. Lucian atmosphere. Our policemen are being trained as "dogs of war" to whelp and whoop in blood-curdling cries. They are getting over-familiar with the use of guns and weapons of destruction and the community is getting the feeling of a State O Siege. The criminal world is adjusting to this new threat to its existence and is also arming itself for "self-defence."

The Privileged Elite which has gained confidence, self-assurance and arrogance in 1983 is all-set for a new round of exploitation in the New Year. Commodity prices for our exports will fall again in 1984 but sure as day the price of foodstuffs and manufactured goods will escalate. The ruling party will be powerless to prevent the exploitation of St. Lucian consumers.

The American ethic of dog-eat-dog capitalism will be in full cry using our local private sector as the vehicle for the exploitation of our people. The workers will be under attack in the workplace and the government will move to throttle the Unions and the representatives of workers.

All-in-all 1984 will be a dread year and we can look forward to the following developments in the new year.

--The Special Services Unit of the police will be particularly dread and many St. Lucians will be shot in the course of normal law-and-order operations.

--Incidents of armed robbery will increase.

--Commodity prices for exports will fall.

--Local prices will rise sharply as profit-margins soar.

--General exploitation will be intensified.

--American influence will extend to many aspects of St. Lucian life.

--More businesses will fail and go into bankruptcy.

- There will be internal strife and discord in the Police Force.
- The Drug Traffic will increase as corrupt Policemen and Law Enforcers will become paid accomplices of the local bourgeoisie in the drug business.
- St. Lucia will face the decision whether to go to the IMF.
- There will be trouble in the prisons again.
- More illegal guns will come into St. Lucia for petty criminals through the normal channels.
- Increased corruption in the Police Force.
- Government moves to throttle Trade Unions and their representatives.
- Increased tensions in Caricom.
- Witch-hunting of Opposition elements.
- Confusion among the clergy in their reaction to social development.
- More exposure of Government corruption.
- Basic freedoms will be under attack.
- Political parties will be in disarray.
- Small incidents will foment public disorder.

These are the signals that flash at the opening of 1984. St. Lucians will need every ounce of resilience and courage to brace themselves against these developments. So we should start the New Year in sober reflection and in fervent prayers for guidance and understanding despite our government's efforts to direct our minds to celebration, fete, display, gaiety and wild abandon.

CSO: 3298/393

BRIEFS

CHAMBER-UNION APPROACHES--President of the Chamber of Commerce Mrs Charmaine Gardiner has suggested that the organisation approaches the trade union movement in St. Lucia to reopen areas of discussion and dialogue on matters of interest to members of both parties. She made the suggestion at the last week's annual general meeting of the Chamber, when she was reelected to office for the second consecutive term. She said: "Areas of discussion at the outset should not comprise items of contention, but rather we can discuss items where a consensus of opinion can be reached and from that foundation, continue onwards through meaningful dialogue to other areas where divergent opinion is apparent." Last year, an initiative by the Government for a tripartite under-Government, unions and the private sector to assist in restoring St. Lucia's battered economy fell through when three unions walked away from the negotiating table. [Text] [Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 17 Dec 83 p 12]

CSO: 3298/394

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION UNITY--5th January, 1984 Kingstown, St. Vincent--The Progressive Democratic Party led by Hon R. B. Russell, Opposition Member of Parliament for East Kingstown, and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Movement led by Dr. Gideon Cordice have agree to get into a National United Opposition Party. The Hon. Calder Williams, Opposition Member of Parliament for North Leeward is also a member of this United Party. It is hoped that the New Democratic Party led by Hon J.F. Mitchell, now Leader of the Opposition and Member of Parliament for the Grenadine will also see the need for a United Oppsoition in keeping with the wishes of the majority of Vincentians who are calling for a strong, united vibrant and democratic Opposition. The unity is based on mutual respect, equality, principle and co-operation. [Text] [Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 6 Jan 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/385

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVE SHOWS CONTINUED DECLINE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Dec 83 p 15

[Text] The drain on the country's foreign exchange reserves persisted in the third quarter of 1983 with reserves falling by \$717.6 million or 12.8 per cent from the level at the end of June, according to the latest quarterly issue of the Central Bank's Economic Bulletin.

Comparing this figure with a fall of \$363.9 million or five per cent in the third quarter of 1982, the bank said foreign reserves have now declined in three successive quarters resulting in a cumulative loss of \$2,281.7 million or 31.9 per cent in the first nine months of the year.

This compared with a loss of \$777.2 million for the corresponding period in 1982.

At the end of the third quarter the foreign reserves were estimated at \$4,878.3 million, the lowest level since the second quarter of 1980, the Bulletin noted.

According to the Central Bank, the fall in reserves during the third quarter of this year resulted largely from a significant decline of \$726.1 million in reserves held by the monetary authorities.

The net foreign position of the commercial banks improved slightly over the quarter with a reduction in their overall deficit from \$149.5 million to \$141.0 million.

The decline in reserves of the monetary authorities was influenced mainly by net sales of foreign exchange to the commercial banks.

These sales picked up in the third quarter rising by 15.2 per cent from the previous quarter to \$1,369.2 million with \$1,340.4 million in the corresponding period in 1982.

Important Source

Data for the first half of the year show that merchandise imports (excluding mineral fuels under processing agreement) rose by 19.4 per cent from the

level in the first half of 1982 while foreign exchange outflows for travel, education, management fees and professional and technical fees grew by about 37 per cent, said the Central Bank's Bulletin.

The publication said, the declining trend in oil taxes and royalties continued in the third quarter.

Oil receipts totalled \$587.4 million, down from \$829.7 million in the third quarter of 1982.

In each of the first three quarters of 1983, oil revenues have fallen considerably below the level in the corresponding quarters of 1982 and receipts for January to September of \$1,411.1 million were 26.7 per cent less than revenues in the corresponding period of 1982.

Interest on the Central Bank's foreign investments--another important source of foreign exchange--also contracted as a result of the decline in reserves available for investment abroad and the moderation in international interest rates.

[Editor's Note: On 24 December, page 1, the TRINIDAD GUARDIAN reports the following:

"The country's foreign exchange reserves have now fallen by \$2.4 billion since the beginning of the year. The latest figure, according to the Central Bank, now amounts to \$4.7 billion. The figure at the beginning of the year was \$7.1 billion. The reserves comprise balances, investments etc. of \$4.41 billion, \$25.4 billion in gold subscription to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and IMF-SDR (Special Drawing Rights) allocation of \$270.8 million. Early last year, foreign exchange reserves had reached almost \$8 billion."]

CSO: 3298/406

ALLIANCE, ONR ADOPT POSITIONS, PLAN JOINT MEETINGS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] The National Alliance and the Organisation for National Construction (ONR) have planned to launch their programme of public meetings in the new year with a meeting at Woodford Square on January 10, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Representatives of both the Alliance and the ONR concluded their meeting in Tobago on Thursday night, and followed their demand for the decolonisation of Tobago, with a call to the Government to lift visa restrictions on nationals of Grenada. They also called on the Government to normalise relations with Caricom States.

They reaffirmed their commitment to Caribbean unity and their faith in Caricom, and agreed to visit in a joint delegation other Caribbean states as early as practicable during the new year.

The leaders expressed grave concern over the deteriorating economic situation in Trinidad and Tobago, while placing responsibility for it on the Government for its financial mismanagement and widespread corruption which resulted in the squandering of the nation's resources.

The Alliance and ONR leaders also expressed fear that additional burdens will be placed upon the population by the Government which would be used to distract attention from the real causes of the economic situation.

As a result, both groups agreed to hold joint public meetings in the new year starting with one in Woodford Square on January 10.

The leaders noted what they termed increased authoritarian tendencies by the Government including the abuse of the financial power of the Ministry of Finance; disrespect for the law relating to the Tobago House of Assembly and local government bodies in Trinidad; the stifling of free discussion in Parliament, and the use of the State-owned electronic media for political propaganda under the guise of information.

At the close of their one-day meeting which was held at the Crown Reef hotel in Tobago, the leaders of the Alliance and ONR agreed to meet on a regular basis in the future.

CSO: 3298/405

DEVELOPMENTS ON LABOR FRONT--JOINT MEASURES TAKEN

Tull Criticism of Government

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 23 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by Angela Martin]

[Text]

SECRETARY General of the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress, Carl Tull has called on Government to remove persons whom he has termed as "intellectual derelicts" from top managerial and supervisory positions, and implement recommendations put forward by the Productivity Council immediately if productivity is to have any meaning in 1984.

Tull was speaking at the prize-giving ceremony of the Productivity logo and slogan competition recently.

In an interview with the EXPRESS on Tuesday at his office in the Workers Bank building, Independence Square, Port of Spain, Tull reiterated his previous statement by saying: "There are incompetent people in the country right now holding down top managerial positions which they are unable handle. Some of them can be rescued by proper training, but there are some who cannot. My suggestion is that those who cannot be trained should be weeded out, lock, stock and barrel."

Tull said that the Chairman of the Productivity Council, Dr Ralph Henry had kept the Labour Congress fully informed of their activities. "He has submitted three reports to the Labour Congress and also to the Government. In these reports there are certain important and fundamental recommendations which, if implemented, would go a long way in improving production. Unfortunately these recommendations are yet to be implemented." Explaining his view as far productivity was concerned in 1984, Tull said: "I foresee a very difficult 1984 - labour, employers and the Government - the partners in industry, all have an equal part to play in the development of the country."

"The Government may have to introduce certain monetary and fiscal measures to cushion the shock. Employers would have to be more

efficient in their business operations and must become more export oriented, in addition to other measures.

"Labour must realise that they must produce more, and save more, and citizens must start thinking from now, to tighten their belts. A lot of people use the word productivity in a loose fashion. A lot of them do not understand what productivity is. Productivity flows from production and vice versa. It entails efficient performance at both managerial and supervisory levels in any industry.

"Workers themselves also have a most important role to play in improving their levels of productivity. Unfortunately there are some workers who simply take a job to receive a salary, but not to work. That is something endemic in the country, equally there are incompetent managers and supervisors who do not know how to perform the responsibilities assigned to them.

"For example there are some persons who come out of University with a degree and are placed into top managerial positions without having acquired the fundamental requirements for dealing with workers. We have had it too easy in the past, we have never experienced any serious crisis as such. But when 1984 hits us, labour would have to do a lot of re-thinking in their approach to negotiations."

Tull further emphasised that Government must also be careful about the measures they are going to introduce in the 1984 budget which could bring about a deleterious effect on the public.

He also stressed that it was impossible for productivity to be dealt with by a single entity. "Productivity has to be dealt with by the combined efforts of government, business and labour if it is to be successful in 1984," Tull said.

Solidarity on Education

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 4 Jan 84 p 3

[Text]

FIVE more unions and associations have joined in labour solidarity with 11 others to organise a massive workers' education programme for 1984 in order to strengthen their position in dealing with employers.

And it was noted yesterday that these 16 trade unions and associations represent about one-third of the total workforce in Trinidad and Tobago.

The increased involvement was announced at a press conference called yesterday at the Public Service Association's Abercromby Street offices to officially inform the media about Saturday's massive joint CASABO (Conference of all Shop Stewards and Branch Officers). The Heinz Complex in Couva has been named as the venue and the conference will start at 9.30 a.m.

The five unions and associations joining were the Sugar Industries Staff Association, the Island

wide Canefarmers' Trade Union, the National Foodcrop Farmers Association, and the Steelworkers Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

Saturday's conference will attempt to formulate a common position to deal with three broad areas: The State of the Trinidad and Tobago Economy; the Employers' response of Wage Freeze/Restraint and Retrenchment, and the Workers' Response. The cost will be shared among all the participants.

There will be a follow-up of meetings.

The unions and associations involved are affiliated both to the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress (TTL) and the Council of Progressive Trade Unions (CPTU).

Five of them, the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association, the Aviation, Allied and Communication Workers' Union, and the Fire, Prisons and Police Associations are non-aligned.

CSO: 3298/405

RESULTS OF LATEST CENSUS, TAKEN IN MAY 1980, REPORTED

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Dec 83 p 3

[Text]

RESULTS of the 1980 Population and Housing Census shows that females outnumber males in this country by approximately 600.

But that is not the only interesting factor in the recently published report. Details show that persons in the 15 to 19 years age groups make up the largest section of the population and that the mixed population make up the third largest ethnic grouping.

These findings came out of the 14th Population Census carried out in this country on May 12, 1980. Unlike two previous censuses when Commonwealth Caribbean countries participated in a Regional Population Census Programme, on this occasion, Trinidad and Tobago acted independently.

The enumeration approach was similar to that adopted in 1970 when the "de facto" procedure of enumerating all persons found in the country at midnight of census day was adopted. An attempt was made to enumerate all persons including permanent as well as temporary residents.

INSTITUTIONS

Institutions were under two groupings. Group A comprised hotels and dormitories whose population pursued normal activities such as the kind engaged in by persons in households. Group B was made up of hospitals and prisons whose inmates were not normally engaged in economic activity.

Additional data were collected on "years of schooling" at levels beyond

primary stage and as well, data on "address of school being attended" and "mode of transportation to school". These were just some of the innovations introduced in 1980.

The total population was derived from an exhausted count of persons enumerated and unenumerated. They were grouped as persons living in private households, persons living in non-private dwellings, groups dwellings, institutions, vagrants and foreign military, naval and diplomatic personnel located in the country at the time of the count.

A summary of the census shows the total population for both sexes at 1,055,763. Of this number, 529,721 were males and females made up the remaining 540,251. A section of the population — 24,028 — were excluded from the tabulations. They were from Group B type institutions and the unenumerated population. Total population used to produce the tabulations was 1,055,763.

Out of a total of 529,721 males resident in this country, East Indians made up the largest grouping with 218,613. Negro males accounted for 215,152 of the number. There are 83,363 males of mixed ethnic origin.

SMALLEST GROUP

The smallest ethnic grouping was for Syrian/Lebanese males. There are only 511 of them accounted for. There are 3,000 Chinese males and 4,884 whites.

For the females, distribution of ethnic groupings followed a similar

pattern. However, Negro women outnumbered East Indians by 218,732 to 218,574. There are 88,722 women in the country of mixed descent. Again the Syrian/Lebanese made up the smallest grouping with only 440 females overall. There are 2,562 Chinese women and 5,062 white women.

For both males and females the largest age grouping was for persons between the ages of 15 to 19 years. There are approximately 133,000 persons in this age range in the country. They are followed closely by youngsters from 0 to four years old with a total of 124,000 males and females.

By ages 65 and over the total figure dwindles to approximately 56,000.

ETHNIC GROUPS

The figures also show that although East Indians outnumber Negroes in the age range of 0 to 49 years their numbers drop drastically after that. Thus older Negroes seem to outnumber other ethnic groups as regards longevity.

Statistics also seem to point to the fact that the mixed population is increasing. While from ages 0 to 24 years the average number in each sex is 11,000, the figure decreases rapidly after that. In the group 55 to 59 years it is as low just over 1,000 females and a similar number of males.

POLICE SEIZE ARMS CACHE IN ARIMA; TWO YOUTHS ARRESTED

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by Francis Joseph]

[Text] A large quantity of .38 snub nose revolvers and hundreds of rounds of ammunition were seized by the Police in the Arima district over the Christmas weekend.

According to reports, seizure of the arms and ammunition by the lawmen prevented a sale in Arima between Christmas night and Boxing Day.

The arms were described as brand new and checks with the Police Armoury revealed that the weapons were never used. It is believed that the arms and ammunition entered Trinidad several days ago.

The cache of arms and ammunition comprised of mostly .38 snub nose Specials and hundreds of wad cutter chrome type ammunition.

The breakthrough came after an all-night Christmas vigil on various places in Arima and surrounding areas by a party of policemen personally headed by Commissioner Randolph Burroughs.

Mr. Burroughs had set up his intelligence base at the back of the Arima District Hospital compound from where he looked over operations, using undercover plainclothesmen for surveillance and observations of a group of men who were believed on the verge of carrying out an arms deal between Christmas night and Boxing Day.

Several homes and business places were kept under surveillance and members of the various divisions and branches carried out simultaneous searches.

This was done after a car was intercepted at the back of the Arima market which Police believe was on its way to make the arms sale. A quantity of arms and ammunition was seized, some of which still had their plastic tags.

A 16-year-old schoolboy and another man about 20 years old were detained by the Police. Up to late last night, they were still being questioned and it is expected that charges of possession of arms and ammunition will be laid against them.

Meanwhile a young man of Aranguez who had just returned from a trip abroad was detained and his passport seized. The lawmen seized several communication sets including a base unit.

In Sequence

It was learnt that the arms were specially numbered in sequence, indicating that it was a shipment that had come into the country.

The man detained at Aranguez will be taken before Customs and Excise officials today to answer charges of making a false declaration; importing firearms into the country and evading Customs duties.

He was reported to have travelled to Brazil, bought his cache and reentered Trinidad with the arms and ammunition.

Assisting in the operations were Asst. Supt. David Jack, Asst. Supt. Cecil Carrington and personnel from other divisions and branches, including women.

Mr. Burroughs praised the men and women who assisted in carrying out the operations that involved an all-night vigil in order to bring the operation to a successful conclusion.

[Editor's Note: The Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN of 29 December 1983, page 3, reports without further detail as follows: "A 14-year-old school-boy and his 20-year-old brother appeared before a Port of Spain magistrate yesterday charged with having a large quantity of .38 revolvers and 147 rounds of ammunition. Troy Joseph, 20 and his brother both of Arima, were not called upon to plead when they went before Senior Magistrate Laymas Sinanan. They were each allowed \$10,000 bail to cover the charges and had their matters transferred to the Arima Court where it will come up for hearing on January 9."]

CSO: 3298/405

SOLDIERS JAILED, FINED FOR ASSAULTING CITIZENS IN FRACAS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] San Fernando

Three soldiers of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment and four others jointly charged were fined a total of \$4,000 ordered to pay costs in the sum of \$7,660.20 and \$800 in compensation.

Sergeant Alton Scotland, 41, Privates Gary Edwards, 23, and Luke James, 23, were jailed when they were found guilty by Senior Magistrate Beecham Maharaj at the Point Fortin Magistrates' Court.

Privates Glen Wiggins, Stanley Caesar, 26, Robin Woodley, 22, Dexter Perry, 22, and Daniel Brooks, 21, were each fined \$1,000, ordered to pay costs of \$1,912.50 and \$200 compensation to Krishna Bhajan, or, in default, 12 months' hard labour.

The eight soldiers were charged with assaulting residents of Icacos on May 4.

In what has been dubbed the "Icacos Fracas" several villagers testified in a 24-day trial of being beaten and threatened by the eight soldiers during what they described as a "reign of terror."

The soldiers, witnesses testified, carried machine guns, sought out several residents and assaulted them. The residents later blocked the road and prevented the soldiers from leaving the area while they sought assistance from the nearby Cedros Police.

Fisherman Jerry Doohkoo, a victim of the assault, attended the trial on 22 occasions, told Magistrate Maharaj that he paid \$12 a day to travel and lost \$80 each of those days in wages. He will receive a total of \$2,024.

Mrs Ramdaye Ramdass, who works in the copra industry, will receive \$1,426; for transportation on 23 days and loss of earnings. Gita Tambie will receive \$240, Jaggernauti Samaroo, \$1,240; Krishna Bhajan, fisherman, \$1,364; Sandra Rammarinesingh \$60; Lutchmin Sumai \$228; Rammanan Ramdhanie, proprietor \$828; Ruben Hart whose motor vehicle was damaged by the soldiers will receive \$1,364; Laloo Latchman \$294; Deodath Maharaj, \$83.50, and Sumai Ram \$1,330.

In passing sentence, Magistrate Maharaj said that the conduct of the soldiers cannot be condoned. In the case of Private James, the concurrent sentence lasting for 12 months, includes months for commonly assaulting Jerry Dookhoo, three months for assaulting Jaggernaut Samaroo and three months for assaulting Sandra Rammarinesingh.

Scotland was sentenced to imprisonment for 12 months for assaulting Krishna Bhajan and three months each for assaulting Samaroo and Mrs. Ramdass. Private Edwards received the 12 months sentence for assaulting Lutchmin Sumai, 12 months for the assault of Mrs Ramdass and Mr Bhajan.

When asked whether they had anything to say to the court before sentences were delivered the soldiers each declined.

Neither of the two defence counsels Theodore Guerra nor Linda Rajpaul, was present when sentences were delivered.

Mr. Nizam Mohammed, was the prosecutor.

CSO: 3298/407

ISCOTT TECHNICAL PROBLEM TEMPORARILY SHUTS CENTRIN PLANT

Shortage of Billets

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 29 Dec 83 p 32

[Text] The inability of the financially-troubled Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) to supply steel billets has forced the closure of the \$110 million central Trinidad steel (CENTRIN) plant at Point Lisas.

Senior officials of the Dansteel group which owns the plant, yesterday declined comment on the matter but a CENTRIN source described the development as "disastrous" saying the plant had to be placed on shutdown only five months after it began production.

An ISCOTT spokesman also confirmed that the State-owned steel company could not supply CENTRIN with billets. According to the spokesman, ISCOTT was experiencing technical problems in the meltshop which "is being repaired".

The meltshop is the section in the billion dollar steel plant where direct reduced iron (DRI) billets are melted and casted into steel billets. CENTRIN which is a merchant bar mill converts billets in angles, flats, curves and other products.

To facilitate the shutdown, CENTRIN workers agreed to a proposal by the company to take their annual vacation leave. The shutdown according to the source may last between 14 to 21 days depending on how quick CENTRIN acquires billets to run the plant.

Saying that the top brass in the Centrin Dansteel group, was upset over the shutdown, the source said that the company was now seeking to import billets from Venezuela or Brazil.

He added: "The whole rationale behind setting up CENTRIN was to take the advice of the late Prime Minister and set up profitable down stream industries from ISCOTT and other companies. If we have to import, we will be defeating the whole purpose of the exercise."

However, the source described the developments as "a blessing in disguise" saying that the company could acquire billets at cheaper prices on the international market than those obtained from ISCOTT.

Asked whether ISCOTT, had supply billets to France, while none was available to CENTRIN, the ISCOTT spokesman said: "The material supplied to France was seconds--it was not up to specification in length of rhomboidity and was accumulated over a period of time."

Plant Reopening

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] Central Trinidad Steel Limited (Centrin) situated at Point Lisas, which temporarily shut down operations shortly before Christmas, will resume rolling once again on Monday.

The full 140-plus employees who were sent home on leave with pay, will be taken back, according to an official of the company last night.

It was reported that Centrin temporarily ceased operations for the want of billets which are being supplied by the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (ISCOTT).

Centrin has about 500 tons of billets in store and intends to use it on resumption. The official said that this supply will last about three days.

The official confirmed that Centrin was owing money to ISCOTT for billets supplied but insisted that any monies owing by Centrin or its associate company, Trinrico, was incurred on current account with ISCOTT in the normal course of trading.

Adverse Effects

He added that payment was made according to terms arranged with ISCOTT. However it can be expected that the short supply of billets and the resultant closure could very well have some adverse effects on Centrin meeting payment arrangements on schedule.

It is understood that Centrin is owing about \$5.2 million to ISCOTT.

The Centrin official said that the billets problem did not arise out of any dispute over money but was strictly caused by ISCOTT's technical problems which can be expected in the normal course of operating any plant.

After Centrin's closure an official of ISCOTT confirmed that they were experiencing technical problems with the melt cast plant and repairs were being effected. It is not known whether the plant is now ready for operations.

The Centrin official however, went on to state that it was resuming operations because ISCOTT indicated that it expects to be in a position to supply billets around mid-January.

PLANT CLOSING WILL SOON DEPRIVE FARMERS OF FERTILIZER

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 5 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
AGRICULTURAL operations in Trinidad and Tobago are expected to be hard hit from the latter part of this year for the want of ammonium sulphate (fertiliser).

Federation Chemicals Limited at Point Lisas, the only manufacturer of ammonium sulphate in the country, will not be able to supply any more of the fertiliser from the end of this year to the agricultural sector because the company has closed down its plant.

Government will have to move swiftly to find a new source of supply, it was learnt yesterday.

A company spokesman yesterday confirmed that the plant was closed down since August last year for economic reasons. The company also closed down its urea plant which also produced fertiliser. Fed Chem has lost its Caribbean markets — Guyana and Jamaica.

The only other major plant in operation at the moment at the Fed Chem fertiliser complex is the anhydrous ammonia which produces another form of fertiliser which could be used for agricultural purposes but it was learnt that it would be too expensive. In addition, special type equipment will have to be used in the process.

A check revealed that anhydrous ammonia, urea and sulphate of ammonia, all contain nitrogen. Anhydrous ammonia has 82 per cent nitrogen, urea 46 per cent and sulphate of ammonia 21 per cent.

The anhydrous ammonia is produced mainly for export to the United States and Europe. A small amount is distributed to Industrial Gases Limited.

Although the two plants are not in operation, Fed Chem is continuing to maintain its work force, some employees are engaged in the anhydrous ammonia plant while

others are doing maintenance work. The company has already retrenched 88 workers, both monthly and weekly paid, for economic reasons.

Meanwhile, State-owned Caroni (1975) Limited, one of the largest customers purchasing sulphate of ammonia, yesterday confirmed that Fed Chem had already communicated to the company advising that they will not be able to further supply the company with the fertiliser after the end of this year — 1984.

However, the Caroni official added that the company had its requirements for 1984. It was learnt too that Caroni will definitely have to find an alternative source of supply.

Apart from the sugar industry, Caroni is embarking on a massive diversification into agriculture and very soon will put into action a number of pilot projects.

A check revealed that Fed Chem manufactures about 80,000 tons of ammonium sulphate a year of which 25,000 tons were distributed in Trinidad.

Between 1981 and 1982 the Trinidad market was supplied with between 11,000 tons to 12,000 tons and from then problems arose with Fed Chem as regards its Caribbean markets.

On the other hand, cane farmers in the country are seeing a very bleak

future, not only for sugar but for food as well, according to Mr. Boodram Jattan, vice president of the Island-Wide Cane Farmers Trade Union (ICFTU) because of the fertiliser situation.

NEW SOURCE

Mr. Jattan said that while urea could be a substitute, it would be much more expensive and the farmers would not be able to purchase it.

Mr. Jattan has issued a call, on behalf of his union and farmers, to Government to take an immediate look into the fertiliser situation, noting that Fed Chem has closed down its plant.

He believed that in the interest of the country, Government should take over the Fed Chem fertiliser plant or start from now to find a new source of supply.

Mr. Jattan said that there is much talk about going back to the land. Even Caroni, a Government-owned company, is in fact expanding its operations in the field of agriculture. What about fertiliser?

He believed that the farmers would be the ones most affected because they would not be able to pay higher prices for fertiliser. Mr. Jattan is calling on Government to take immediate action in the matter.

AGRICULTURAL BANK IN POLICY SHIFT TOWARD FOOD PRODUCTION

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 4 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Niala Rambachan]

[Text] In a determined onslaught on Trinidad and Tobago's massive food import bill, the Agricultural Development Bank is changing its policy, concentrating on pumping new loans into food production.

This in fact means a 180-degree turn around in the bank's previous policy, where money was lent for all types of agricultural enterprises in the past, Jonas Saith, the Bank's Marketing Manager told the EXPRESS yesterday.

Saith said that the Bank was particularly willing to lend money to farmers wanting to go into dairy or beef production, rootcrops, fruits, vegetables, rice and other cereals and fish.

He stated that the ADB had halted loans for poultry and pig farming, since it had deemed that the country was now self-sufficient in these foods. "If hoarding of chickens takes place at certain times of the year," he explained, "then we might have shortages in chicken. But that does not mean that the productive capacity for these foods is not there."

The bank has recognised, he said, that the local farming community is able to make dramatic turn arounds in producing needed foods if incentives were given. In 1983, for instance, milk production doubled over the 1981 production level. This he ascribed mainly to the subsidy given to milk producers by the government in the 1983 budget.

Similarly, the bank believes, rice production, neglected for so long, can be revived if the bank gives it positive encouragement and loans. "There are certain myths about the food scene," Saith observed. "People say all kinds of things about agriculture being moribund. But if you look at what happened with milk production, you will realise that agriculture is simply dormant."

Asked whether he thought that agricultural loans will mean an end to the problems of agricultural access roads, flooding and distribution inadequacies, Saith replied that the bank had already had meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture.

"We will be working closely with the Ministry, the County Councils and the Central Marketing Agency and we hope that some of the things like access roads, marketing and the problem of praedial larceny will improve," he explained.

"We cannot promise that the distribution situation will improve," he cautioned, "but we have had serious meetings with the ministry."

Asked what particular types of fruit would be encouraged by the Bank, Saith replied that for this year the focus will be on mangoes, avocados and citrus. Next year, it is hoped that the base of endeavour will expand to include pineapples and passion-fruit. But for the beginning, it was felt that it would be better to stick with the tried and tested products.

There will be plenty of small sums available for planting and rehabilitating of orchards, he indicated, but limited funds for acquiring estates. The bank has requested from the government \$30 million dollars to lend out in agricultural loans and expects to recover about the same amount in repayments on previous loans.

The management of the bank has already begun to hold meetings with representatives of farming groups in the country to try and influence them to take advantage of its 1984 thrust. "This is the first time that we are doing this," Saith said.

"Normally, farmers come to us and make proposals, but now we are taking the initiative and approaching them with our ideas."

The Bank has already had a meeting with the Trinidad Island Wide Cane Farmers Association during which they put forward their ideas for rice production and other forms of agriculture.

CSO: 3298/406

CARONI PLANS TO IMPORT SUGAR FROM LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 4 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Caroni Limited will be importing a total of 64,460 tonnes of raw sugar from Guatemala, Brazil and Santo Domingo to meet local consumption demands while all the sugar it produces in 1984 will be exported to maintain international sugar quotas.

This was stated by company acting general manager Russell Wotherspoon at a press briefing yesterday to mark the start of the 1984 sugar crop. With Wotherspoon were acting chief executive officer Teckle Skinner, agricultural manager Lyle Donowa, information systems manager Keith Byrne and public relations manager Tony Deyal. Wotherspoon said the crop started yesterday without incident and it was expected that the factories at Brechin Castle and Usine Ste Madeleine would have started grinding operations later in the evening.

Explaining the rationale for importing raw sugar for local consumption and exporting what was produced, Wotherspoon said, that the Lome Convention and the world market agreements specified that the quotas be met by local production only. He said it was prudent that the local production of 76,350 tonnes of sugar be used to meet these "valuable quotas."

According to Wotherspoon the Lome Convention quota was 62,500 tonnes while the quota on the world market in the USA was 18,000 tonnes. Caroni will still fall short of 3,620 tonnes of sugar to meet the international quotas even if it fills the project target of 76,350 tonnes.

Wotherspoon said that the company, in accordance with the requirements of the International Sugar Agreement (ISA), must buy from a ISA member if ever it had to make sugar purchases. He said this was what influenced the company to seek raw sugar imports from the three countries named. He made it clear that this country was not importing sugar from Cuba.

CSO: 3298/406

BRIEFS

PANDAY MESSAGE--Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday said yesterday that the only hope for Trinidad and Tobago now is to remove the present Government and clear the way for mass mobilisation of human resources to redirect the society. Mr. Panday made the statement in his New Year's message to the nation. He said: "As 1984 approaches, the air is filled with fears and anxieties that there are hard times ahead. As we leave the old year we must not forget who or what is responsible for the state of uncertainty that has gripped the nation. Some will no doubt try to put elsewhere the blame for the downturn in our economy by attributing it to uncontrolled international forces. That is not good enough. Our economic problems do not arise out of the same set of factors as those in the developed countries. We have found ourselves in economic difficulties because the Government has mis-managed the \$40 billion dollars which were received from the oil pool over the past ten years. They have squandered it by spending our wealth on prestige projects which never had a chance of viability. They failed to use the national patrimony to build the productive base of the economy in such a way that it would promote and sustain self-generating growth. Now that the money is gone it is too late for them." [Text] [Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 1 Jan 84 p 1]

DECLINE IN DEPOSITS--Savings deposits and time (fixed) deposits have been growing at a very small rate, but demand deposits have actually dropped by 4.5% in Trinidad and Tobago's banks during the first half of this year. This was disclosed by the Central Bank's Quarterly Economic Bulletin, which stated that savings deposits and time deposits increased by \$124.6 million and \$112.7 million during the first five months of the year. However, demand deposits dropped by \$78.3 million. As a result, the commercial banking system has experienced some of its lowest liquidity levels since 1974. Average excess liquidity in June of 1.34% compares with corresponding 1982 and 1983 figures of 6.3% and 7.1% respectively. Banks did not curtail their credit expansion as a result of their very low liquidity situation, the bulletin went on to reveal. Outstanding loans and advances rose by \$358.3 million or 7.3% during the first quarter of the year. Total instalment credit extended by commercial banks, finance houses, retailers and government in the first four months of 1983 amounted to \$660.9 million, or 35.7%. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 24 Dec 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/407

END